

AND

Scene magazine



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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2005

\$1.00

Spike in deaths likely due to 'ops tempo,' Hagee says Page 5

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Petty Officer 2nd Class Arnaldo Alejo from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, watches cars to be inspected Thursday at a checkpoint on the base. An instruction clarifies and augments driving and vehicle registration rules for all Navy personnel in Japan.

JIM SCHULZ
Stars and Stripes

Navy steps up driving strictures

- CNFJ edict lowers threshold for drunken driving charge to 0.03 BAC
- Cell phone use while driving criminalized
- New registration policies among other changes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Blake murder trial: The prosecution tried to bolster its murder case against Robert Blake by calling a police detective and the girlfriend of a key witness who claims the actor solicited him to kill his wife.

Detective Brian Tyndall testified Thursday that police determined Blake had bought a prepaid telephone calling card, which the prosecution claims was used to make the calls to hire a killer.

Blake, 71, is accused of murdering Bonny Lee Bakley on May 4, 2001.

Brain-damaged woman: A judge in Florida on Friday extended for three weeks a court order keeping Terri Schiavo's feeding tube in place, the latest in a series of legal developments in the bitter right-to-die case.

Pineas Circuit Court Judge George Greer made his decision after pleadings from the woman's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, that they need more time to pursue additional medical tests which might prove their brain-damaged daughter has more mental capabilities than previously thought.

San Diego mayoral race: Supporters of Donna Frye's write-in bid for mayor of San Diego on Thursday appealed a ruling that upheld Dick Murphy's election to a second term, keeping alive a bid to count thousands of disqualified ballots that likely would have tipped the contest to the city councilwoman.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Michael Brenner ruled Feb. 2 that the county registrar acted properly in refusing to count 5,551 ballots on which voters wrote Frye's name but failed to darken the adjoining bubble. The registrar said state law required that the bubbles be filled.

Murphy, a Republican, defeated Frye, a Democrat, by 2,108 votes.

California firebombings: A man was indicted on federal arson charges Thursday involving firebombings linked to an eco-terror group that targeted residential and commercial construction sites.

Ryan D. Lewis faces five counts of arson and three counts of attempted arson for his alleged involvement in incidents this winter in three communities east of Sacramento.

Lewis, 21, of Newcastle, admitted taking part in some of the crimes, according to an FBI affidavit.

Falwell in hospital: The Rev. Jerry Falwell could be released from a hospital this weekend or early next week, his son said Thursday.



MARVYN E. THOMPSON JR., Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Feeling the pain: Sailors do flutter kicks Friday in Nimitz Park during command physical training at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan.

Falwell, 71, checked into Lynchburg General Hospital in Virginia on Sunday suffering from congestion. Doctors confirmed Wednesday he had pneumonia. Jerry Falwell Jr. said Thursday that his father, the chancellor at Liberty University, was making steady progress.

Los Alamos workers sentenced: Two former Los Alamos National Laboratory workers accused of buying television sets, barbecues and hunting gear on a lab purchase account were sentenced Thursday to prison terms.

Peter Bussolini, 67, was sentenced to six months in prison followed by six months of house arrest and \$30,000 in fines. Scott Alexander, 42, was sentenced to a year and one day in prison.

World

Strait of Malacca piracy: Malaysia does not want help from outside the region in patrolling one of the world's most strategic waterways — the Strait of Malacca — a government minister said Friday, despite a recent rise in pirate attacks there.

Officials are "quite happy" with security in the strait, a trade and oil shipping lane between Malaysia and Indonesia's Sumatra island, said Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar.

The minister was commenting on an Inter-

national Maritime Bureau report that 37 pirate attacks occurred in the waterway last year, up from 28 in 2003.

Last March, Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, said an American plan to heighten security in the waterway might require a detachment of elite U.S. troops to be stationed nearby.

N. Korean nuclear crisis: President Roh Moo-hyun urged South Koreans on Friday to be calm following North Korea's recent claim that it has nuclear weapons, and he said it will take both flexibility and a principled stand to persuade the communist nation to abandon its atomic weapons program.

In a major policy speech before the National Assembly, Roh also assured that South Korea's alliance with the United States was more stable than ever.

Bird flu in Vietnam: Vietnam confirmed a new case of bird flu Friday, heightening the sense of urgency as an international conference on fighting the deadly virus ended with calls for concerted action to prevent a possible global pandemic.

Health and animal experts said the long-term strategy for battling the disease must focus on minimizing the risks of infection to poultry and people by a virus now firmly established within flocks of wild birds in the region, beyond hope of quick eradication.

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Navy tightens vehicle laws on Pacific bases



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Petty Officer 2nd Class Arnaldo Alejo from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, speaks with a driver about his vehicle's papers Thursday at a base checkpoint. A new Commander, Naval Forces Japan instruction augments driving and vehicle registration rules for Navy personnel in Japan.

Lower blood-alcohol levels, punishment for driving while using cell phone among slew of CNFJ revisions

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Under a revised Navy traffic and driving instruction for Japan bases, drivers can be busted for drunken driving with a blood-alcohol content of 0.03 percent — the same as off base — and drivers must sign a warning about abandoning vehicles before they can register a car.

The instruction, approved in January by Commander of Naval Forces Japan Adm. Frederic Ruehe, revised driving, traffic safety and vehicle registration rules.

It standardizes several items that had been at local commanders' discretion, and makes several violations punitive — so breaking them is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The changes are designed to protect the base population, prevent dangerous activity such as drunken driving and to keep the bases in step with local Japanese regulations, said Force Judge Advocate Capt. Erick Armstrong.

The most notable changes include a new drunken-driving violation and greater and consistent punishments across all Navy bases.

As is the case off base, drivers with a BAC of 0.03 percent to 0.05 percent will be charged with the new crime, driving while drinking indicated (DWDI), which carries a 30-day driving suspension.

The lower level translates to about two beers in an hour for a 150-pound man.

Driving with a BAC of between 0.05 and 0.1 percent, categorized as driving while under the influence (DWI), now carries a mandatory driver's license suspension of six months to a year.

Driving while intoxicated (DWI), a BAC of 0.1 percent or higher, now carries a mandatory two-year driver's license suspension. In the past, base commanders decided the

length for a suspension.

"The message really is don't drink and drive," said CNFJ Safety Director Winky White. "It's not to punish people, it's to prevent them from getting hurt."

The instruction adds other rules consistent with Japanese law. Cell phone use is prohibited while driving on base, as it now is in Japan — either talking on the phone or looking at the screen.

Many bases had banned cell phone use while driving, but the new instruction makes the offense a crime.

Vehicles on base are now subject to the same noise rules as dictated by Japanese officials off base. For example, Yokosuka City prohibits noise above 45 decibels — about that of a loud air conditioner — so the base will continue the same limit on base.

"That may affect some people who have modified their vehicles," Armstrong said.

The instruction makes it a crime to have an open container of alcohol in a vehicle, even if the keys are not in the ignition. Alcohol can be in the vehicle if the original seal is unbroken.

The instruction adds a clause about loaning vehicles. Motorists are prohibited from loaning their vehicle to someone who could be considered unsafe due to alcohol, drugs, illness, exhaustion or fatigue.

The instruction adds several rules about vehicle registration, also in sync with Japanese regulations. Vehicle owners soon will need to pay a one-time fee for vehicle recycling and those living off base more than 2 kilometers (about 1.2 miles) away will have to show proof that they have a parking spot for every vehicle registered.

Those living on a base or within 2 kilometers will have to show proof of their address to the Vehicle Registration Office instead.

The rules affect anyone who purchased a car or changed residences since September.

To combat a problem with abandoned vehicles, owners now will have to sign a vehicle responsibility form that reminds them of the consequences of abandoning a vehicle.

"We have tools where we can come after them," Armstrong said. "It's a debt to the United States that must be paid."

Owners must deregister their vehicles and pay to junk them. Cars found abandoned can be traced to their owners through the vehicle identification number and owners will be responsible for about \$600 in fees.

The instruction also changes the requirement for motorcycles. Anyone who cannot prove motorcycle-driving experience will be limited to a 400 cc engine or smaller for the first year.

Like in Japan, the base will have graduated licensing rather than a blanket motorcycle operator's permit so drivers will need to test and be licensed for the specific motorcycle category they intend to drive.

Motorcyclists also must wear full- or three-quarter-length helmets. Half-size and novelty helmets are prohibited. And motorcyclists must wear an international orange or lime green reflective garment on the outside during the day or night — which means over a backpack.

Most of the instruction changes followed local laws or attempt to standardize laws across all CNFJ bases, but the motorcycle regulations are a result of recent incidents, White said.

Most of the CNFJ fatalities recently in personal vehicles occurred on motorcycles.

"We're trying to protect our people from themselves," Armstrong said.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@spjstarsandstripes.osd.mil

Overview of changes

The new CNFJ instruction revises Navy traffic and driving rules for Japan bases including Yokosuka and Sasebo Naval Bases, Naval Air Facility Atsugi and Navy bases in Okinawa.

The rules apply in Diego Garcia, which falls under CNFJ, but sailors there don't have private vehicles.

At Naval Air Facility Misawa, part of Misawa Air Base, sailors fall under Air Force regulations, many of which are identical to the new Navy rules.

Each base determines when the new rules go into effect. Yokosuka Naval Base and Naval Air Facility Atsugi will start enforcing the new rules March 1.

Here is an overview of the changes and modifications:

Drunken driving:

■ Driving while drinking indicated (DWDI) — blood alcohol content between 0.03 and up to 0.05 percent; 30-day driving suspension.

■ Driving while under the influence (DWI) — BAC of 0.05 and up to 0.1; mandatory driver's license suspension of six months to a year.

■ Driving while intoxicated (DWI) — BAC of 0.1 percent or higher; two-year driver's license suspension.

Vehicle registration:

■ Vehicle owners will soon pay a one-time fee for vehicle recycling.

■ Those living more than 2 kilometers from base will have to show proof that they have a parking spot for every vehicle registered.

■ Those living on a base or within 2 kilometers off base will have to show proof of their address to the Vehicle Registration Office instead.

Responsibility form:

■ Owners will now have to sign a vehicle responsibility form that reminds them of the consequences of abandoning a vehicle.

■ Owners who abandon or fail to deregister a vehicle will be required to pay fees of about \$600, even if they leave Japan.

Motorcycles:

■ Anyone who cannot prove motorcycle-driving experience will be limited to a 400 cc engine or smaller for the first year.

■ Bases will have graduated licensing based on motorcycle type.

■ Motorcyclists must wear full- or three-quarter helmets and international orange or lime green reflective garments worn on the outside day or night.

Other rules:

■ Cell phone use now prohibited while driving on base.

■ Noise violation policy consistent with local laws.

■ Prohibition against open containers in any vehicle, stopped or in motion.

— Stars and Stripes

Suicides among Marines up 29 percent

BY ANN SCOTT TYSON

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps suffered a 29 percent spike in suicides last year, reaching the highest number in at least a decade, with the demanding pace of military operations likely contributing to the deaths, a top-ranking U.S. Marine said Thursday.

Thirty-one Marines committed suicide in 2004, all of them enlisted men, not commissioned officers. The majority were younger than 25 and took their lives with gunshot wounds, according to Marine statistics.

Another 83 Marines attempted suicide. There were 24 suicides in 2003, and there have not been more than 29 in any year in the last 10.

Although last year's suicide rate rose, it was still below the national average for a comparable civilian group, in keeping with an established pattern of suicide being lower in the U.S. military than in the civilian population.



Marines load duffel bags as 220 members of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2 prepare to depart Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, N.C. Suicide rates for all the services began rising in 2002 which leads experts to believe that stress is broadly linked to deployments.

Marine commanders say the rise in suicides continues a worrisome three-year trend that is likely linked to stress from the sharply increased pace of war-zone rotations.

At the same time, they said the increase in suicides is not directly related to service in Iraq or Afghanistan; since 2001 24 percent of the suicides have been committed by Marines who have been

deployed there, the statistics show.

It is "not only Iraq, it's just the [operational tempo] in general, that's what I think," Gen. Michael W. Hagee, the Marine Corps commandant, told reporters at a breakfast meeting Thursday.

Hagee's remarks echoed a strong warning in a Dec. 13 memo that he issued on suicide prevention. "This problem is per-

vasive and is impacting Marines throughout the Corps, not just those who have been deployed in support of the global war on terrorism," the memo said.

"The increased operational tempo that our Corps is experiencing may be affecting the ability of our Marines to deal with perceived overwhelming stressors associated with relationship, financial and disciplinary problems."

Indeed, about 70 percent of Marine suicides over the past four years have been caused by problems in personal relationships, which can be exacerbated by heavy workloads, said Cmdr. Thomas Gaskin, a behavioral health specialist for the Corps' Personal and Family Readiness Division at Quantico, Va.

"That is the single biggest stressor," he said.

With a force that is the youngest in the military services and predominantly male, the Marine Corps has generally experienced the highest suicide rate among the military branches because its demographics mirror a high-risk group in the general population.

More than 60 percent of Marines are younger than 25, and 16 percent are teen-agers.

Suicide rates for all the services began rising in 2002, and the Army had an increase in 2003, the first year of the Iraq war.

These leads experts to believe that stress is broadly linked to deployments.

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AFN outages

American Forces Network customers may experience programming interruptions between Monday and March 13 due to a seasonal "sun outage," AFN officials announced Thursday.

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Measure would end 'don't ask, don't tell' rule

Report citing \$191 million cost to recruit replacements for discharged gays renews debate

BY JOHN HENDREN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers called Thursday for an end to the Pentagon's ban on gays in the military, citing findings in a government report that the prohibition hurts recruiting and retention even as the war in Iraq strains the military's ability to maintain its troop strength.

A Government Accountability Office study, released Wednesday, found that since 1993, the Department of Defense had spent at least \$191 million to recruit and train replacements for almost 10,000 servicemen discharged under the ban —

including more than 300 with critical language skills. On Thursday, Rep. Marty Meehan, D-Mass., prepared to offer a bill that would end the Pentagon's 12-year-old policy, known as "don't ask, don't tell."

"The conventional justification for 'don't ask, don't tell' has been that allowing gays to serve undermines military readiness," Meehan said. "Now we have the numbers to prove that the policy itself is undermining our military readiness."

The prohibition on gays in the military is a long-standing principle of military law. But in an effort to keep a campaign promise to lift the ban, President Clinton estab-

lished "don't ask, don't tell" in early 1993. Under the policy, the military is not allowed to ask about sexual orientation and service members are not to reveal it.

If the fact that they are gay becomes public, servicemen can be discharged. Although Meehan's measure is unlikely to be approved under the Bush administration, the renewed challenge to the prohibition on gay servicemen marked the latest, and perhaps most creative, effort to improve the military's ability to fill its ranks as it strains to keep up troop strength for military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army National Guard is 24 percent

below its recruitment goal for the past four months, and the Army Reserve is 7 percent down.

The Marines failed to meet their goal in January for the first time since before the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Pentagon officials continue to insist that they expect to meet their annual goals by Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

The war in Iraq has offered potential recruits an increasingly stark choice between almost certain combat duty and an expanded array of career options in an improving economy. Candidates for what was once weekend and summer duty in the Guard or Reserve are less likely to join now, analysts said.



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1st in GI charged with murder, abuse

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A 1st Infantry Division senior non-commissioned officer was charged this week with killing one prisoner and mistreating others last fall during the unit's deployment to Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Jorge L. Diaz, 34, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, appeared Wednesday before a military judge in Würzburg.

The 1st ID's staff judge advocate released a list of the charges Friday.

Diaz, a 17-year veteran, pleaded innocent to one count of premeditated murder, one count of maltreating a prisoner, two counts of assault, one count of making a false official statement and one count of trying to impede an investigation.

Diaz is accused of committing the crimes during a cordon-and-search operation of Iraqi buildings near Babel on Oct. 24-25. According to the charge sheet, Diaz is alleged to have forced a blindfolded prisoner on Oct. 24 to hold a smoke grenade with the pin pulled, pointed a pistol to his head, and punched and choked him.

The next day, during a separate search, he allegedly shot and killed an Iraqi, Thaher Khaleefa Ahmed.

Diaz also is accused of telling his soldiers to lie about the incident and of falsely telling an Army investigator that Ahmed had made a threatening movement toward him.

According to the charge sheet, prosecutors do not intend to seek the death penalty.

A trial is tentatively scheduled for early May.

The Diaz case is the latest in a growing alleged abuse of Iraqi terror suspects by U.S. soldiers.

Sgt. Michael Williams and Spc. Brent May of the 1st Cavalry Division were charged in September with premeditated murder in the deaths of three Iraqis.

Chief warrant officers Jefferson Williams and Lewis Welshofer Jr., Sgt. 1st Class William Sommer and Spc. Jerry Lopez of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment were charged in October in the November 2003 deaths of Iraqi Maj. Gen. Abid Hamid Mawhouth during questioning.

Stars editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report from Washington.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: sliewer@mil.estripes.osd.mil

3 U.S. soldiers killed

BAGHDAD — Insurgents ambushed a U.S. patrol, killing three American soldiers and wounding nine. Friday's attack took place in Tarmiyah, about 20 miles north of the capital.

"There was a group of American soldiers walking in the road while around five Humvees were parked behind them," said Waleed Nashed, 35, who lives in the area. "I heard a very loud explosion and I saw bodies flying."

Prison abuse case

LONDON — The British military said Friday it would investigate allegations by five Iraqi men who say they are the prisoners featured in photographs showing abuse by British troops.

Three British soldiers are due to be sentenced by Iraqi courts Friday for the mistreatment.

Pictures of the abuse — which included an Iraqi hoisted on a forklift and two naked men stimulating oral and anal sex — have provoked outrage in Britain.

The victims were not identified and did not testify at the court martial on a British military base in Germany.

Opinion poll on Iraq

WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans, 54 percent, now say they believe U.S. troops will have to stay in Iraq for at least two more years, compared with 44 percent of people who felt that way last summer, a poll released Thursday finds.

The Jan. 30 elections in Iraq appear to have improved perceptions in the United States about the possibility of a stable Iraq, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

The Pew poll of 1,502 adults was taken Feb. 16-21. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Dutch forces coming?

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — The Dutch government has been negotiating secretly with the United States to send 150 commandos to Afghanistan for anti-terrorist missions, the Dutch media reported Friday.

A spokesman for the defense department said he could not immediately confirm the reports by De Telegraaf newspaper and others. NOS television showed several ministers entering a Cabinet meeting complaining that the mission was supposed to be classified.

The Netherlands currently contributes around 260 soldiers to NATO's stabilization force in Afghanistan, known as ISAF. The Dutch also have 1,400 troops in Iraq as part of the U.S.-led coalition, but they are due to be withdrawn on March 15.

From The Associated Press

Trial set for GI accused of killing wounded Iraqi

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

The court-martial of a 1st Armored Division captain accused of murdering an Iraqi man last year is set to begin March 28, according to Army officials.

If coverage of the preliminary hearings last fall is any indication, the trial of Capt. Rogelio M. Maynulet should generate great interest among servicemembers and the media. Some view the case as "an act of mercy" to a dead or dying man, while Army prosecutors maintain it was murder.

Maynulet is charged with premeditated murder and dereliction of duty relating to the May 21 death of a man believed to be associated with the insurgency campaign against U.S. troops. At the time of the incident, Maynulet commanded Company A, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, and was viewed by many supporters as a rising star.

"Captain Maynulet maintains his inno-

cence, and I think that the court members will reach the right and just verdict," Capt. Will Helixon, the lead defense attorney, said in a telephone interview last Friday.

The trial will be held in the courtroom on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany.

Maj. Michael Indovina, a division spokesman, said the proceedings are expected to last several days.

"It will definitely go the full week, based on the number of witnesses," Helixon said.

The list for both sides includes about 45 to 50 names, Helixon said.

Prosecutors are expected to introduce a 10-minute video of the incident and the events preceding it. An unmanned aerial vehicle operating at the time near the Iraqi cities of Kufa and Najaf apparently captured the shooting on tape.

The video was not played in open court during the pretrial hearing. The encounter between Maynulet and the Iraqi man came at

the end of a vehicle chase between U.S. soldiers and a car believed to contain militia forces.

Following the incident, the Army stated "the driver and a passenger were wounded" when U.S. forces shot at their vehicle. "Shortly thereafter, the wounded driver was shot and killed at close range."

At the preliminary hearing, defense attorneys presented expert medical testimony and a report by the on-scene medic. The report stated there were at least two bullet wounds to the base of the driver's skull and that brain matter was on his clothes and in the car. A medical expert said a person in such a state could still move, but it would likely be involuntarily.

Whatever the circumstances, prosecutors argue Maynulet unlawfully killed a man who, at the time, was alive, even if his chances for survival were slim.

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: kdougherty@mil.estripes.osd.mil



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IN THE WORLD

Pope breathing on his own after surgery

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II is breathing on his own and is not suffering from pneumonia, the Vatican said Friday, taking pains to cast the pope's condition in a positive light a day after he was rushed to a hospital for surgery to ease another breathing crisis.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the frail 84-year-old pontiff spent a restful night at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, where he was taken by ambulance Thursday after suffering his second bout of breathing trouble in less than a month.

John Paul's latest hospitalization was certain to further fuel speculation about whether he could continue on, and what would happen if he were incapacitated.

The pope had no signs of a lung infection such as pneumonia, Navarro-Valls told reporters. He said the operation to cut a small breathing hole in the pope's throat "was not an emergency procedure."



Pope John Paul II



Nuns look at the 10th floor of Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital where Pope John Paul II remained hospitalized Friday. The pope is not suffering from pneumonia, the Vatican said.

"It was a question of assuring adequate breathing of the patient," he said. A doctor trained in emergency assistance has been on call at the Vatican but there was never any need for him, Navarro-Valls said.

Italian news agencies had reported that John Paul was placed on a respirator after the surgery, but Navarro-Valls said the

pope "had no need of assisted breathing."

"Assisted means mechanical, which wasn't used yesterday, nor last night, nor this morning. There was no need," he said.

"He's breathing better. He has a significant feeling of relief," the papal spokesman said. He said John Paul had no fever, the pope's post-operative condition was

progressing normally and that doctors had used a "mild" anesthesia on the pope.

He said a decision would be made Saturday on what the pope would do for his Sunday noon blessing, a tradition very dear to the pontiff.

"The Holy Father spent a night of tranquil rest," he said.

"This morning, he ate breakfast with a good appetite. He's breathing on his own and cardio-circulatory conditions remain good."

"Upon the advice of his doctors, the pope must not speak for several days, so as to favor the recovery of the functions of the larynx," Navarro-Valls said.

The pope's breakfast included coffee with milk, 10 biscuits and yogurt. "He ate everything," the spokesman said.

The pope wrote a note Thursday night to his aides saying, "What did they do to me?" Navarro-Valls said, describing it as a joking message.

"I am always totus tuus," Navarro-Valls quoted the pope as writing. Totus tuus is John Paul's Latin motto translated by his spokesman as meaning, "I am completely in your hands."

He said the Vatican did not expect to issue another medical bulletin until Monday.

Blast in Israel kills at least 3

Attack at Tel Aviv club jeopardizes cease-fire

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ

The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowd of young Israelis waiting outside a nightclub near Tel Aviv's beachfront promenade just before midnight Friday, killing at least three people, wounding dozens and shattering an informal Mideast truce.

About 20 to 30 people were waiting to get into the Stage club on Herbert Samuel street, close to the promenade.

"I was near the club. There were about 20 people outside. Suddenly, there was an enormous explosion," said a witness, identified only as Tashi.

There were conflicting reports of who was behind the attack.

Israeli media said the militant group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility. But one of the group's leaders in the Gaza Strip, Nafez Azzam, said it was continuing to honor the cease-fire.

Palestinian security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah orchestrated the blast. They said they had tracked recent communications between Hezbollah militant Kais Obeid and an unidentified Palestinian who they believed was the attacker. But a Hezbollah official in Beirut denied involvement.

Hezbollah has emerged as the biggest threat to the fragile Israel-

li-Palestinian truce, with Lebanese guerrillas offering West Bank gunmen thousands of dollars to attack Israelis. The Israeli-funded Lebanese guerrillas, who have hundreds of West Bank gunmen on their payroll, have stepped up pressure recently.

Friday's blast ripped off the front of the nightclub, shattering windows of nearby restaurants and blackening nearby cars. Dozens of ambulances and rescue workers pored through the scene, and police scoured the balconies of nearby buildings in search of evidence.

Israeli rescuers said there were five dead, while other reports said three were killed. Israeli army radio said at least 55 people were wounded.

It was the first suicide bombing since Israel and the Palestinians declared an informal cease-fire on Feb. 8 meant to end more than four years of fighting. It also was the first suicide attack since a bomber killed two people in a Tel Aviv market on Nov. 1.

Saeed Erekat, the chief Palestinian peace negotiator, condemned the attack "in the strongest possible terms."

On Feb. 12, Islamic Jihad and another militant group, Hamas, said they were adhering to a de facto truce with Israel, but stopped short of committing to the official cease-fire that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed on at their summit.



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Ready to launch

Japan re-entering Asia's space race

By ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

TANEGASHIMA, Japan — The countdown is on. After 15 months on the ground, Japan is hoping to get back into the space race in Asia with a launch Saturday of its domestically designed H-2A rocket.

But with China now in the spotlight and memories still fresh of how Japan's last mission ended in a fireball, officials admit it won't be easy.

"This launch is crucial," said Mamoru Endo, a senior official with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, as crews prepared the sleek black, white and orange rocket for its trip to the launchpad at the sprawling space center on this remote, semitropical island.

"But a single launch success is not enough to revive the reliability and reputation of the H-2A. I think maybe three or four successes will be necessary."

Long Asia's leading spacefaring nation, Japan is struggling to get out from under the shadow of China, which put its first astronaut into orbit in October 2003. A month later, a Japanese H-2A rocket carrying two spy satellites malfunctioned after liftoff, forcing controllers to blow it up.

Last month, Beijing announced it will send two astronauts into orbit for up to five days in September or October. China, which is believed to have earmarked \$20 billion for its manned program, hopes to put an unmanned vehicle on the moon by 2010.

Though loathe to admit it, Japanese space agency officials have been shaken by China's advances. "We aren't especially conscious of China," Endo said, noting that the two nations' space programs have very different objectives.

But he acknowledged a government panel recommended last week that Japan, which has focused on unmanned, scientific probes, consider a manned space program over the next decade.

China's lofty ambitions have caught the attention of Washington as well.

Mindful of the Chinese challenge but careful to call it a "journey and not a race," President Bush has outlined an ambitious plan to put an astronaut back on the moon by 2020 and send Americans to Mars, a program that could cost \$400 billion.

Other players are also becoming more active in the space game — including North Korea.

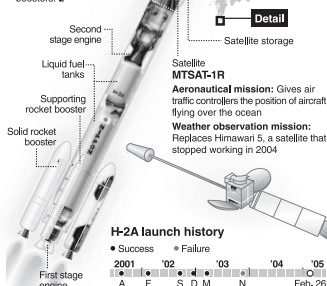
North Korea claimed to have launched its first satellite in 1998

Japan's crucial mission

Japan's space agency will launch its domestically built H-2A rocket Saturday to put a multipurpose satellite in orbit. Failure of the last liftoff in November 2003 put the nation's space missions on hold.

H-2A F7

Total mass: About 323 tons
Length: 53 m (175 feet)
Diameter: 4 m (13 feet)
Rocket boosters: 2
Supporting rocket boosters: 2



SOURCES: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency; Rocket System Corp.

and said it was successfully broadcasting praises of leader Kim Jong Il from orbit. That has been disputed by experts in Japan and

the United States, who believe the launch was merely a test of the communist state's Taepodong I missile technology.

Poll: Many women in Japan glad to be single

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A newspaper poll published Friday showed 73 percent of unmarried Japanese women are happy being single, underscoring trends toward declining birthrates — and a soon-to-be-shrinking population.

The share of unwed women who agreed with the statement "Women can live a happy life on their own without getting married" rose 10 percentage points from two years ago, the Yomiuri newspaper said.

Japan's birthrate has fallen to 1.29 — among the world's lowest — as fewer people opt for matrimony and couples wait longer to tie the knot. Many families are also choosing to have only one child.

About 58 percent of the survey's respondents — both male and female — said they thought it was a problem that Japanese were delaying marriage, the Yomiuri said.

Sixty-seven percent said the entry of more women into the work force had contributed to people delaying marriage.

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2 U.N. soldiers may be forced to leave Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Two Pakistani police officers working as U.N. peacekeepers in Haiti have been suspended and may face repatriation after a U.N. investigation found they had sex with a prostitute in a banana field, U.N. officials said Thursday.

The men will be repatriated if a board of inquiry confirms the findings of a U.N. and Haitian police investigation, said Damian Onses-Cardona, spokesman for the 7,400-member force.

U.N.: Nine peacekeepers killed in attack in Congo

KINSHASA, Congo — Unidentified attackers ambushed U.N. peacekeepers on patrol Friday in northeastern Congo, killing nine Bangladeshi troops in the deadliest assault ever on the 6-year-old U.N. mission, officials said.

The attack occurred near Kafe, 20 miles northwest of Bunia, capital of Congo's lawless Ituri province, U.N. spokesman Mamadou Bah said.

From The Associated Press

Christian Ministries Far East

Pastor Charles A. Hall

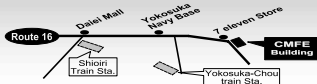


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Knill family via AP

Clockwise from bottom left: A series of photos shows the beach at Khao Lak, Thailand, on Dec. 26. The photos — which show the water receding, then forming into the huge wave about to engulf a person in picture 5, then finally crashing ashore — were found in the digital camera of a North Vancouver, British Columbia, couple who were killed by the wave.

Tsunami photos 'an echo from the grave'

BY LORNET TURNBULL
Seattle Times

It was like a puzzle — these images from a broken digital camera washed up on a deserted beach in Thailand.

Christian Pilet of North Bend, Wash., could not have known the power of his discovery: the last photos taken by a couple who lost their lives in the Dec. 26 tsunami and the closure the photo diary would bring to a grieving family half a world away in British Columbia.

Taken in sequence, the photographs tell a gripping story: John and Jackie Knill arriving at a Khao Lak resort, happily enjoying Christmas dinner with a large group of friends and then basking in a brilliant tropical sunset.

The next day, the couple is seen hugging, smiling — radiant on the beach. Then the story turns ominous: people stroll the beach under a clear blue sky, apparently oblivious to the large wave that has formed a line across the horizon.

The wave gets closer, its power more evident as it kicks up sand and mud and finally crashes onto the beach.

"We were stunned — just out of

the blue, an echo from the grave," Pilet said. "What we saw in these pictures were the last five minutes of these people's lives."

Pilet knew nothing about the man and woman in these photos. But through the power of the Internet and dogged determination, he would find their family virtually in his own back yard.

The Knills of North Vancouver, British Columbia, had been on a four-month vacation in Thailand when they were caught in the deadly tsunami.

Well known across western British Columbia, John Knill was retired from an alarm company his family founded and was involved in music production. Jackie had recently sold a yacht-detailing business.

Of the photos, their son Patrick

"Initially, it probably didn't even cross their mind to get away. At the point they took that last picture, they had to have known — but by then it was too late."

Christian Pilet
tsunami relief observer

Knill, 28, said, "This is more than we could ever have asked for. It's like being there with our parents and seeing what they were seeing in those final moments."

Pilet, a missionary with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, had traveled with colleagues to Southeast Asia earlier this month to assess the relief effort.

He and a friend had taken a break from the group to explore the beach.

"My friend spotted the camera," he said. "It was smashed up pretty bad."

He said he popped out the digital camera's memory card and tossed the rest away.

Back at their hotel, he used his Palm Pilot to upload a flawless set of photos from the card onto his computer.

At home, Pilet's wife searched the Internet and found a link to a Web site with a photograph of the Knills and information about how to contact their relatives.

On Feb. 11, Pilet drove to Vancouver to deliver the memory card of photos to the Knills' children.

At the time Pilet presented the photos to their sons, he said he felt compelled to answer their one nag-

ging question: Why didn't their parents just run?

"I walked that beach. There was really nowhere for them to run to," he said. "Initially, it probably didn't even cross their mind to get away. At the point they took that last picture, they had to have known — but by then it was too late."

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Nepal's King: Democracy will return

KATMANDU, Nepal — Nepal's king has promised to restore democracy in three years, and insists that he upholds democratic principles despite his power grab earlier this month, a newspaper said Friday.

In his first comments to the Nepalese media since he sacked the government and declared a state of emergency on Feb. 1, King Gyanendra also urged Maoist rebels to join peace talks and shrugged off the suspension of military aid by India and Britain.

The king also suspended civil rights and hand-picked a monarchist Cabinet. Dozens of opposition politicians have been arrested or have gone underground, and the media has been strictly censored since the king's takeover.

However, six prisoners who had been held without charge were released Friday. Gyanendra promised to restore democracy at a meeting with a dozen Nepalese editors inside the sprawling Narayanhiti Palace on Thursday.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Where have all the shoulder-fired missiles gone?

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It has been known for years that thousands of light and lethal shoulder-fired missiles are in black-market circulation. What is not known is exactly who has them and whether many have fallen into the hands of terrorists or criminals.

A worrisome puzzle, it explains why the United States and Russia signed an agreement Thursday to cooperate in destroying surplus Soviet-era SA-7s and other portable anti-aircraft missiles. The smallest of these are durable, relatively cheap and

easy to smuggle.

The United States also has understandings with several other countries, including Nicaragua, Bosnia, Cambodia and Liberia, for Washington to provide technical assistance or money to destroy anti-aircraft missiles.

The State Department estimates that about 1 million shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles have been produced worldwide since the 1950s. The number believed to be in the hands of "nonsenate actors," such as terrorist groups, is "in the thousands," the department says.

"What's driving this is concern about the threat to commercial aviation," said Wade

Boese, research director at the private Arms Control Association. A single successful missile attack on a passenger plane could paralyze the airline industry, at enormous economic loss, he said.

There has been one known attempt against a commercial airliner outside of a war zone. In November 2002, two surface-to-air missiles barely missed an Israeli charter airliner taking off from the airport in Mombasa, Kenya, with tourists returning to Israel. Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network claimed responsibility for the attempt.

The U.S.-Russian agreement signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and

Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov calls for sharing information about exports of these missiles to third countries.

Of note, Boese said, is the absence of a commitment by either Washington or Moscow to halt the exports.

The United States began selling its Stinger shoulder-fired missile to foreign countries in 1982. The CIA secretly transferred an estimated 2,000 to Afghanistan mujahideen rebels in the mid-1980s, and they were used to down hundreds of Soviet helicopters and transport aircraft.

There also are an unknown number of SA-7 and other types of shoulder-fired missiles in the hands of insurgents in Iraq.

Man guns down 2 outside courthouse

The Associated Press

TYLER, Texas — A man angered over a child support dispute with his ex-wife opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle outside the Smith County Courthouse, killing her and a man who tried to stop the bloodshed.

Before police killed the gunman a few miles away Thursday afternoon, three law enforcement officers and the man's son, who had been acting as a mediator be-

tween his parents, lay wounded on the historic courthouse square.

Police estimated David Hernandez Arroyo Sr., who had a history of spousal abuse and weapons violations, shot 50 rounds outside the courthouse. Arroyo, 43, wore a military flak jacket and a bullet-proof vest.

"He definitely came well-armed and prepared. We do understand there had been some

threats made by him the previous week," Police Chief Gary Swindle said.

But Joshua Wintters, an attorney who represented 41-year-old Maribel Estrada, said he doesn't believe she thought her ex-husband was dangerous. Estrada worked at a meat packing plant in Tyler and raised a 17-year-old and a 6-year-old with the help of her eldest son, Wintters said.

Estrada and Mark Alan Wilson,

52, died in the gunfire. Smith County Sheriff's Deputy Sherman Dollison, 28, was in critical condition at East Texas Medical Center on Friday morning after being shot four times — in the liver, lungs and legs. The man's son, 23-year-old David Hernandez Arroyo Jr., was shot in the legs and was in fair condition Friday. A sheriff's lieutenant and a Tyler police detective were treated and released.

Friends who visited the son in the hospital Thursday night said he told them that his father was always open about having a collection of weapons. The younger Ar-

royo said his father told him not to be afraid to use the guns if he were threatened, the friends said.

Arrea Seneaz said the son told them, "And look now, he used them on us."

Seneaz said the younger Arroyo was a dutiful son who chauffeured his mother around because she couldn't drive and helped care for his younger siblings. "He took good care of his mother," she said in Spanish.

Wilson was credited with saving the son's life.

"One of the deputies at the scene said if it hadn't been for Mr. Wilson, the son would be dead," Sheriff J.B. Smith said.

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Connecticut legislative panel backs civil unions

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut's legislature moved closer to legalizing civil unions for same-sex couples, as a key panel approved a measure that could make it the first state in the country to recognize gay unions through legislative action rather than court order.

The legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee voted 25-13 to pass a bill Wednesday that would give gay and lesbian couples the same state rights as married heterosexuals, except for the right to obtain a marriage license.

Proponents said Thursday the civil unions measure has bipartisan support among lawmakers and will likely pass the House and Senate by early June, when the session ends.

Former Steeler Swann readying for campaign

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Former Pittsburgh Steelers star Lynn Swann has formed a campaign committee to raise money for a potential run for governor in 2006.

Swann named his committee Team 88, the number he wore as a wide receiver for the Steelers from 1974 to 1982, when the team won four Super Bowls.

On Wednesday, Swann filed papers to form a campaign committee for governor, which allows him to begin raising money for a campaign.

Winter storm blankets Northeast

A winter storm blanketed the Northeast on Thursday, forcing the federal government and schools around the region to close early and triggering a spate of accidents during the afternoon rush hour.

The snow coated an area that included Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and New York, and was expected to move north later in the day. Several cities reported accumulations of about 6 inches, and some were bracing for up to 9 inches.

In New Jersey, trains were unusually crowded and passengers slipped on unshoveled platforms. Planes were reported delayed by up to two hours at Newark airport. Several accidents reduced traffic on New Jersey's clogged roads to a crawl.

The forecast amounts would push 2004-05 snowfall totals past the seasonal average in most places in New Jersey.

Drivers in the nation's capital found mostly wet road conditions as pavement temperatures hovered just above freezing most of the day. About 1,500 road crews in Maryland were salting the roads.

From The Associated Press

Homeland Security panel angers privacy advocates

Some say members lack necessary knowledge

By LESLIE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Privacy advocates say a committee set up recently to advise the Homeland Security Department on privacy issues amounts to little more than a fox guarding a chicken coop.

One member works for a high-tech company that distributed software that many computer users complained contained adware.

Another works for a conglomerate whose subsidiary turned over personal records of airline passengers to a government contractor.

A third works for a defense contractor from which thieves stole personal information on thousands of employees, making them vulnerable to identity theft.

Bruce Schneider, chief technology officer of Counterpane Internet Security, a Mountain View, Calif., computer security company, and author of "Beyond Fear," said he looked at the 20-member list and laughed.

"It's just plain weird," Schneider said Thursday. "There are all the privacy people?"

Homeland Security Chief Privacy Officer Nuala O'Connor Kelly said the committee repre-

sents a cross-section of viewpoints, including people who have criticized the department.

"We picked the best board from the people who applied," said Kelly, adding that more than 130 people applied for the committee that she announced Wednesday.

Privacy is a sensitive issue for the Homeland Security Department as it embarks on ambitious plans to look into the backgrounds of everyone who boards a plane, enters the country or works in the transportation industry.

But some committee members have had their own problems with information privacy and security. They include:

■ Samuel Wright, senior vice president of Cendant Corp. Cendant owns Galileo, a computer reservation system that turned passenger records over to a government contractor without their permission or knowledge, according to testimony last year by Transportation Security Administration chief David Stone.

■ Joseph Leo, vice president of Science Applications International Corp. The firm stole computers containing personal information on tens of thousands of employees of SAIC, a defense

contractor involved in some of the U.S. government's most sensitive work.

■ D. Reed Freeman, chief privacy officer for Claria Corp. In February 2003, Claria, then known as Gator, settled a suit brought by The New York Times, The Washington Post and other media companies for installing unauthorized pop-up ads on their Web sites.

Freeman, who worked in privacy enforcement at the Federal Trade Commission, went to Claria after the company got into trouble for its practices, Kelly said.

But privacy advocates say the list doesn't include what they call the "usual suspects" from their own ranks.

"The chickens have quite a number of foxes in there," said Bill Scannell, who manages the privacy Web site UnSecureFlight.com.

Despite the criticism, Kelly pointed to several privacy advocates on the board: Tara Lemney, former executive director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy rights group; Lance Hoffman, a George Washington University professor; and James Harper, editor of Privacify.com and a self-described critic of government surveillance.

The committee will meet four times a year and set its own agenda, Kelly said.

"The chickens have quite a number of foxes in there."

Bill Scannell

manager of privacy Web site UnSecureFlight.com

Flight 93 memorial designers meet

SOMERSET, Pa. — The designers who gathered Thursday at the Somerset Historical Center believe they have come up with an idea for a national memorial that will not only represent what happened in the sky and on the ground on Sept. 11, 2001, but also communicate the story decades from now.

Representatives from the five groups of finalists in the Flight 93 national memorial design competition met not far from the crash site near Shanksville to gather information that could help them flesh out their design concepts. The finalists have until June 15 to submit more detailed plans to a second jury, which will select a winning design by Sept. 11.

Boy dies in Calif. gang shooting

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Gang members opened fire on a group of students a block from a high school Thursday, killing an 11th grader and injuring another boy, police said.

No arrests were made but there are "some very good leads," Sgt. David Cannan said. The identities of the victims and their ages were not immediately released.

Cannan said about 10 students were walking down Cabrillo High School about 1:30 p.m. after classes had ended for the day when they were confronted by a group of gang members.

Maintenance worker shoots boss

LOS ANGELES — A street maintenance worker who had reportedly been reprimanded for coming in late shot and killed his boss and another employee, authorities said.

The suspect, who was not immediately identified, then drove himself to a police station and surrendered Thursday night. Police found an AK-47 rifle in his car.

The Los Angeles Times quoted sources as saying that the man had been admonished for being late Thursday morning, and the dispute escalated throughout the day. The man left work in the afternoon and came back with a gun, police said.

The victims worked for the city's Bureau of Street Services for more than 20 years, police said.

Cash-toting justice robbed

CLEVELAND — An Ohio Supreme Court justice had \$18,000 of his money stolen from his state-issued car while he was being honored at a high school dinner, authorities said.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell, 59, told police the theft occurred Feb. 16 in the Platts riverfront entertainment district, where he parked his car for the St. Edward High School event.

O'Donnell, 59, received the school's 2004 Alumnus of the Year honor.

When he returned to the car, a window was smashed and the money and a briefcase were missing, according to a police report.

He said he keeps large amounts of cash at home and had planned to deposit the money in a checking account to pay for home repairs.

From The Associated Press



O'Donnell

Kansas attorney general seeking abortion records

The Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — The Kansas attorney general, a staunch opponent of abortion, has demanded the medical records of nearly 900 women and girls who had late-term abortions, saying he needs the material to investigate crimes.

The two abortion clinics involved in the case say the state has no right to such personal information and are fighting the request in the Kansas Supreme Court.

But Attorney General Phill Kline insisted Thursday he needs the records because he has "the duty to investigate and prosecute child rape and other crimes in order to protect Kansas children."

Sex involving someone under 16 is illegal in Kansas, and it is illegal in the state for doctors to perform an abortion after 22 weeks unless there is reason to believe it is needed to protect the mother's health.

The clinics argued that unless the high court intervenes, women who obtained abortions could find government agents knocking at their door.



Kline

The clinics said Kline demanded their complete medical records for women and girls who sought abortions at least 22 weeks into their pregnancies in 2003.

The records sought include the patient's name, medical history, details of her sex life, birth control practices and psychological profile.

The clinics are offering to provide records with some key information edited out.



A committee is recommending that a study be conducted to look into the feasibility of installing suicide barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Golden Gate Bridge suicide barrier is being considered

By TERENCE CHEA

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Golden Gate Bridge officials moved closer to building a barrier to prevent people from jumping off the famous suspension bridge, where about 1,300 people have killed themselves since the landmark opened in 1937.

Officials voted Thursday to develop a plan and explore funding for the suicide barrier after hearing emotional testimony from friends and family of people who jumped off the iconic bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County.

The decision by a committee of

the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District still must be approved by the district's board of directors when it meets March 11.

All the nearly 20 people who testified Thursday urged committee members to erect the barrier.

"I don't want one more family member to go through this pain," said Terry Oxford of San Jose, whose 26-year-old daughter, Jennifer, jumped to her death last week. "She chose this bridge because it was accessible."

An average of 20 people a year commit suicide by pitching themselves over the bridge's 4½-foot-high rail. Four have already done so this year.



Shuttle Commander Eileen Collins, left, talks with astronaut Stephen Robinson as he prepares for underwater training.

Shuttle commander ready for mission

The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — The commander of the first mission since space shuttle Columbia broke apart two years ago said she's ready to return to orbit, but still is uncertain about in-flight repair techniques developed so far.

"There is still more testing to be done," space shuttle Discovery Commander Eileen Collins said Thursday while standing on the deck of the space center's neutral buoyancy lab — an indoor pool that contains mock-ups

of the shuttle and International Space Station where astronauts practice spacewalks.

Collins and her crew on Thursday practiced the second of three spacewalks scheduled for their mission, in which mission specialists Soichi Noguchi and Steve Robinson will replace one of the space station's four gyroscopes. The gyroscopes, one of which hasn't worked since 2002, control the station's orientation.

The mission, set to launch May 15, will test new external tank designs, processes to minimize damaging debris during launch, new

ground and camera flight systems to detect damage, and techniques for in-flight inspection and repair of shuttle tile.

It will be the first time U.S. astronauts have returned to space on a shuttle since the Columbia disaster Feb. 1, 2003.

"The one big thing we have over Columbia is we'll know the health of our vehicle," said shuttle pilot Jim Kelly.

During Columbia's doomed flight, a piece of fuel-tank foam pierced one of the thermal panels along the edge of the left wing, causing a gash that led to the shuttle's destruction during re-entry.

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FedEx cracks down

PIKEVILLE, Ky. — FedEx Corp. has stopped delivering packages from online pharmacies to portions of eastern Kentucky where prescription drug abuse has become widespread.

"We don't tolerate the use of our system for illegal purposes," said Ryan Furby, a spokesman for the global shipping giant based in Memphis, Tenn. Deliveries in some communities stopped two weeks ago, he said, and people who order drugs online must go to a FedEx station in London, Ky., to pick them up.

Drug dealers and abusers have increasingly turned to ordering prescriptions from unlicensed Internet pharmacies as law enforcement agencies crack down on local doctors who prescribe pills without legitimate medical reasons.

Mingled remains

SEABROOK, N.H. — An unlicensed crematorium that may have mingled human remains took bodies from Maine and Rhode Island as well as Massachusetts and New Hampshire, a court document showed Friday.

Most of the bodies cremated at Bayview Crematorium came from Massachusetts, but some of the dozens of cremation certificates from last year viewed by investigators were for bodies from the other states, a search warrant application in Hampton District Court says. State Police Detective Jill Rockey requested the warrant, which led to the closure of Bayview this week.

Writer's widow talks

ASPEN, Colo. — The widow of journalist Hunter S. Thompson said her husband killed himself while the two were talking on the phone.

"I was on the phone with him, he set the receiver down and he did it. I heard the clicking of the gun," Anita Thompson told the Aspen Daily News in Friday's editions.

She said her husband had asked her to come home from a health club so they could work on his weekly ESPN column — but instead of saying goodbye, he set the telephone down and shot himself.

Hunter Thompson, famous for "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" and other work of New Journalism, shot himself in the head Sunday in the kitchen of his Aspen-area home. He was 67.

From The Associated Press

Snow is nature's sound insulator

BY DAWN FALLICK
Knight Ridder/Tribune

PHILADELPHIA — Freshly fallen snow is really nature's white noise machine.

That's right. It really is quiet after a snowfall, and not just because everyone is hiding indoors.

Scientists have discovered that in the first hours after a snowfall, the flakes have a rare acoustic quality to absorb sound waves.

Sometimes it lasts for just a few hours — as in a slushy snowfall.

Other times, when it's covered by freezing rain, it heads to the opposite end of the acoustic spectrum and echoes like concrete.

Researchers worldwide, particularly where they get lots of winter weather, say they study the sound of snow in hopes of figuring out everything from avalanche triggers to noise insulation.

"After a fresh snowfall, it's very quiet and why? Well, it's blown by wind and sunshine, it hardens and loses its effectiveness," said Gilles Daigle, who researches sound acoustics for the National Research Council, a governmental research agency in Ottawa, Canada.

The reason snow works so well as a sound insulator is because all the crystals are shaped differently. So when they fall on each other, they stack like differently shaped blocks, leaving lots of air between the flakes. The air works



Jay Bailey drives a sleigh Monday across the fields at Fair Winds Farm in Brattleboro, Vt., while giving a ride in freshly fallen snow. Recently, scientists have found that fresh snow has natural sound-muffling properties.

like the holes in a sponge, trapping sound waves and dampening vibrations.

"The grains themselves aren't very spherical, so when it first falls, it's very fluffy," said Douglas Durian, who studies the physics of granular materials at the University of Pennsylvania.

All of which is more easily done with fallen snow. Falling snow, however, is much harder to study.

Snowflakes themselves are tiny

hard crystals and may actually scatter sound more than absorb it. But they're hard to study — they don't stay still and aren't predictable, say scientists.

It may seem like the study of snow acoustics may be silly, when it just lasts for a day or so. But to Jerome Johnson, it was a matter of saving lives.

Johnson works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Region Research and Engineering Lab in Fairbanks, Alaska. A

few years ago, he studied snow acoustics for Washington State.

"The goal was to develop ways to trigger avalanches artificially as a safety mechanism without using traditional means, such as artillery rounds," he said.

Most scientists say there needs to be more studies about snow — only if it weren't so hard to study.

"The thing with snow is that it's so variable," said Daigle, in Canada. "It changes hour by hour and it's quite challenging to keep up."

Confederate remains to be reburied

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The remains of 21 Confederate soldiers that were recovered from beneath the stands of a military college's football stadium will be reburied next month.

Hundreds of soldiers and civilians were buried during the Civil War on the land where The Citadel's stadium now stands.

The city meant to allow the graves to be moved in 1948, when the stadium was built, but because of a clerical error the city's letter only allowed the headstones to be moved.

Civil War re-enactors began looking for the graves of lost Confederates in the 1990s. The remains of about 40 Civil War soldiers have been recovered and reburied.

The latest group of remains was found last June. The bodies were badly deteriorated because they were buried near a river and none have been identified.

Burial in a cemetery for the 21 soldiers is set for March 5.

The recovered remains of about 350 civilians remain in storage until the college decides where they should be reburied.

Big chair frees man from bed

BY MATT CHITTMUM
The Roanoke Times

ROANOKE, Va. — Quetmon Powell weighs about 700 pounds. He rarely leaves his apartment. It's an existence he compares to being in jail.

As many an inmate can attest, simple pleasures for the rest of the world become life-sustaining luxuries for the confined.

That's why Powell, 31, says words can't express his appreciation for a gift delivered to him Tuesday evening — a gift that will give him liberty from his bed, let him take in fresh air on his front porch, and bring him closer to his wife and stepchildren.

It was a chair.

"It's a man's chair," said Philip House, the man who built it, as he put it together for Powell. Though he'd never built a piece of furniture in his life, House designed and built this piece from 6-by-6-inch cherry and cedar after learning that the only piece of furniture in Powell's house suitable to hold him was a special bariatric bed. House, a certified occupational therapy assistant who had worked with Powell at a rehabilitation center last spring, was disturbed that Powell's family often had to come to his bedroom to see



Philip House, left, says a prayer for Quetmon Powell, right, with Powell's wife, Niesha Powell, for Quetmon's health Tuesday after House presented Quetmon with a hand-built chair for his living room in Roanoke, Va. Powell weighs about 700 pounds.

him, leaving him isolated in his own home.

About one in 50 adult Americans suffers from morbid obesity, though most cases are not as extreme as Powell's. Morbid obesity, in which a person weighs 100 pounds more than their ideal weight, increased twice as fast as regular obesity in the past 15 years, recent studies show. A study by a Rand Corp. researcher in 2003 found that morbid obesity increased fourfold from 1986 to 2000.

Powell's "lifestyle was pretty much lay in bed, get up and walk to the front door, get up and walk to the back door," House said.

"I decided I'd pray about it, because I thought there might be some thing I might be able to do."

Right away, he began to get ideas about what the chair would look like.

Colleagues at the rehabilitation center helped pay for the lumber, and local mills agreed to cut and shape it. On Tuesday, he showed Powell a list of 21 people, companies and churches that all deserved thanks.

Powell was always overweight, "but it never really hindered me in any way."

When he injured his knee and was hospitalized in the spring, he weighed 868 pounds. The last time he was weighed, he was down to 719. If he gets down to 690, doctors will allow him to have gastric bypass surgery.

Until then, he cannot work, because he is considered disabled.

Rowling not amused with Army's parody

BY PATRICK T. REARDON
Chicago Tribune

Is that bespectacled boy who's pouring a sleeping potion into a large jar Harry Potter? And, next to him, is that Ron Weasley with some truth potion? And Hermione Granger with "Love Potion No. 9"? Well, no. That's the point.

This is the May 2004 issue of "PS: The Preventive Maintenance Monthly" comic book, a 54-year-old publication aimed at passing along how-to tips to U.S. soldiers for taking care of everything from giant aircraft to their personal kits.

It's a parody of J.K. Rowling's literary juggernaut about an orphan boy with a scar on his forehead and an aptitude for magic. It was written and produced all in good fun, Army officials say, but that's not how Rowling and Warner Bros., which is producing the series of movies from her books, are taking it.

They're taking it as a possible copyright infringement, and last week a Warner lawyer began dis-

ussions of the question with Army officials.

"Our lawyers say the illustrations [of the Harry Potter-ish characters] are permissible under the U.S. copyright law as parody," says Lt. Col. Virginia Ezell, a spokeswoman for the Army Materiel Command in Fort Belvoir, Va., which publishes PS.

The May 2004 issue of PS drew new attention earlier this month, particularly from the United Kingdom, after its existence became widely known through a Feb. 3

posting on one of the Harry Potter Internet fan sites, www.hpmana.com.

PS, which is produced out of Redstone Arsenal, Ala., is a monthly comic with a circulation of 88,000. The Army has been using the colorful format for more than half a century, Ezell says, "to get the soldiers to pick it up. It needs some way to attract their attention."

"We're not trying to make money out of this," Ezell says. "We're trying to help soldiers. It's a way to keep them safe."



J.K. Rowling

Teachers: Raises needed to keep educators

BY KELLEY SHANNON
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Long after the last school bell rings, first-grade teacher Kim Thonhoff is buying trinkets for her students.

Stephanie Reed is shopping, too, spending \$40 on math books, posters and other supplies for her first-grade classroom. They aren't alone.

Public school educators in Texas frequently spend their own money at education supply stores — even though many of them can't afford it. Some of those teachers are critical of lawmakers, saying they need to pay teachers more or lose them to more lucrative fields.

"I really do think that the Legislature

needs to put some money into teacher salaries, and they need to upgrade the professional status of the teacher," Thonhoff said.

Teacher salaries are part of the equation as lawmakers wrestle with public school funding, contemplating putting billions more dollars into the education system. Some teachers' groups are pushing for a raise for all teachers. Republican legislative leaders are steering toward incentive pay based on performance or local needs.



Thonhoff

A survey by the American Federation of Teachers shows that Texas salaries were \$5,799 less than the national average for the 2002-03 school year, the most recent year for which data is available. That put Texas 30th in the nation, at an average of \$39,972.

California led the nation. South Dakota was last.

The Texas Federation of Teachers is asking lawmakers for a \$3,000 across-the-board raise as part of a school finance package, although that still wouldn't put teachers at the national salary average, said federation president John Cole.

Republican Rep. Kent Grusendorf of Arlington, who wrote a sweeping House education proposal now under consideration, scoffs at the idea of an across-the-board

raise.

Raises should be linked to cost-of-living differences throughout Texas and should address teacher shortages in certain areas, he added.

His plan would restore a \$1,000 teacher health care stipend that was cut in half in 2003 and would pay it as incentive. It also would provide money for teacher mentor programs and allow for district-designed "performance pay" incentives.

The Texas teachers' federation says it would support some incentives.

But the Texas Federation opposes linking raises to student scores on standardized tests. Teachers can get a federal income tax credit for purchasing supplies, but many say it's common to spend more than that credit amount.

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A part of a caisson from a bridge built across Lake Champlain by Continental Army soldiers in the late winter and early spring of 1777 sits in the preservation laboratory at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Ferrisburgh, Vt., on Feb. 15.

History washes ashore in N.Y.

Remnant of the Revolutionary War discovered near Fort Ticonderoga

BY WILSON RING
The Associated Press

FERRISBURGH, Vt. — A bridge built across Lake Champlain by about 2,500 underfed and sick Continental Army soldiers in the late winter and early spring of 1777 was considered a marvel of 18th century engineering.

Historians figure thousands of huge pine logs were skidded onto the ice in March and April, notched together like Lincoln Logs, and then sunk with rocks through holes the soldiers cut in the ice.

By spring 22 caissons, some up to 50 feet tall, reached the surface of the lake where they were joined by a deck that allowed people to walk between Fort Ticonderoga in New York and Mount Independence in Orwell.

Now a piece of one of those caissons sits in the preservation laboratory at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum being made ready to give museum visitors a glimpse of the 228-year-old bridge.

"When you look at what they wanted to do, it connects you right to the American Revolution," said Maritime Museum Executive Director Art Cohn.

About 2,500 American troops used the 16 foot-wide bridge built on top of the caissons to flee the British army that was bearing down on Fort Ticonderoga in July 1777.

The British occupied the fort and later destroyed the bridge.

But many of those same colonial troops who fled Ticonderoga played a role in defeating the British in the Battle of Saratoga, one of the pivotal battles of the Revolutionary War, three months later.

The caissons the bridge rested on remain underwater. They are all deep enough so they don't interfere with boats on the lake, Cohn said.

The 26-foot beam is estimated to weigh between 1,500 and 1,800 pounds. It washed ashore last year near Fort Ticonderoga on the New York shore of Lake Champlain.

The beam was trucked to the Maritime Museum in December where it is being dried out and made ready for public display.

The size and condition of the beam mean it isn't as difficult to preserve as some other wooden artifacts pulled from Lake Champlain.

The original tree that was cut nearby in Vermont or New York is believed to be dense, white pine. Eighteenth century forests were full of such trees.

"It's certainly old growth," said Chris Sabin, the museum's director of conservation.

The cold lake water helped preserve the timber.

Once the preservation of the timber is complete it will be displayed at the Maritime Museum. Cohn said it will be returned to the museum at Fort Ticonderoga after a new visitor center is completed there.

Hurricane recovery delayed in Fla.

BY BILL KACZOR
The Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Chuck Johnson and his golden retriever, Molly, share a small camper parked in front of a concrete slab, all that remains of his hurricane-battered home.

The 56-year-old film technician is among thousands of Floridians still struggling to recover five months after the last of four hurricanes rampaged across the state.

Disputes with insurers and shortages of building materials, contractors and labor have delayed repairing or rebuilding many of Florida's 700,000 damaged dwellings.

Insurers have settled 90 percent of 1.6 million claims statewide from Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, which also killed 117 people in Florida when they hit in August and September.

But Johnson's is in the remaining 10 percent of property owners still waiting for his check.

Citizens Property Insurance, created by the state as an insurer of last resort, has been particularly slow paying claims because it had no adjusters on its payroll.

Citizens hired adjusting firms that also had contracts with national companies, which provide their year-round work while Citizens uses them only for hurricanes.

"They gave those companies service first," says state Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher.



Chuck Johnson and his golden retriever, Molly, sit outside the camper trailer where they live in Pensacola, Fla., on Feb. 17, in front of an empty slab, which is all that remains of their hurricane-battered home. Johnson is among thousands of Floridians still struggling to recover from the four hurricanes that struck the state last year.

"They took the Citizens policy-holders last."

Getting roofers and roofing materials has been difficult across the state, resulting in backlogs of up to seven months and price increases of about 25 percent, says Steve Munnell, executive director of the Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association.

Gov. Jeb Bush signed an executive order letting out-of-state contractors work without Florida licenses through mid-May, but they still must meet the state's in-

surance requirements and obtain local specialty licenses. Some jurisdictions have declined to issue such licenses.

The shingle crunch eased during the winter as manufacturers ramped up production and demand from cold-weather states dropped, but it still can take up to six weeks to get an order, Munnell says.

Those delays may get longer. The expiration of the governor's executive order and the return of warmer weather are expected to send contractors, workers and shingles back north.

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Cancer patient Pam Messinger receives chemotherapy at Mary Babb Randolph Cancer last month in Morgantown, W.Va. Messinger opened up her private life to West Virginia University journalism students for a book and documentary on the lives of cancer patients.

Students' project shines light on coping with cancer

BY MICHELLE SAXTON
The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — In a stark, black-and-white photograph staring out from the book, Pam's eyes show the weight of her worry.

"Pam knew cancer long before she detected a lump," her story reads. "The disease has shaped and reshaped her family over the generations. Her mother died of ovarian cancer more than 10 years ago."

"She also lost two paternal great-aunts and six maternal great-aunts to reproductive cancer. . . It is a worst fear come true, a deadly legacy that seems to take out every female in its genetic

path."

Pam, who is still battling breast cancer that has spread to her liver, is one of seven people chronicled in "Cancer Stories: Lessons in Love, Loss & Hope," a project by a group of journalism students from West Virginia University.

The book is being released this month by WVU Press but it has already drawn national media attention, and a student-produced documentary of the three-year-long project released last year won a regional Emmy.

Although much of that attention has been focused on the work as a product of student journalists, and the effect on them, the larger impact may be on the medical community. (Hence the intended market for the \$40, 219-page book is physicians and caregivers.) "These journalistic works will help offer physicians a primer on how to treat the 'whole patient,' who may be struggling with finances, family problems and emotional stress, in addition

to fighting a life-threatening disease," Dr. Eddie Reckliff, director of The Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Clinic where the patients were treated, says in the book's flyleaf.

Jennifer Roush, who wrote Pam's story, puts it a bit more directly.

"They don't get to go home with their patients. They don't get to sit at the dinner table with them. They won't see what happens after they walk out of the hospital doors," said Roush, now a features editor at the Times West Virginia in Fairmont.

Pam's story is typical of the others in the book, going beyond the medical scope of radiation treatment and surgeries to reveal how she lived with cancer at home, lost her hair and got sick, and how it affected her family, including her two

children.

Pam said she took part in the project to help others down the road. "It seems like a waste to suffer like this if I can't turn it around some way and make it easier for somebody else," she said.

"[Doctors] don't get to go home with their patients. They don't get to sit at the dinner table with them. They don't see what happens after they walk out of the hospital doors."

Jennifer Roush

Student journalist in the "Cancer Stories: Lessons in Love, Loss & Hope" project



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Study: Hemophilia drug could help bleeding stroke patients

The Associated Press

A drug that keeps hemophiliacs from bleeding to death could also prove to be the first treatment for the most lethal and crippling type of stroke, the kind caused by a burst blood vessel in the brain.

In a promising international study, stroke victims given the drug were one-third less likely to

die and three times more likely to survive without severe disability.

"What was really startling was how well this drug worked," said Dr. Stephan Mayer, a stroke specialist at the Columbia University Medical Center in New York who led the study.

The drug needs more study, and Mayer said it will be at least two years before the maker applies for Food and Drug Administration approval for this purpose.

Most of the 700,000 strokes in the United States each year are caused by a clot that cuts off the flow of blood to the brain. Over the past decade, the clot-busting drug tPA has proven extraordinarily effective at treating many of these victims.

But there has been no effective treatment for the 10 percent to 15 percent of strokes caused by bleeding in the brain. More than half of victims die within a year, and only one in five recovers well enough to regain mobility.

Researchers tested recombinant activated factor VIIa, a clot-forming drug sold as NovoSeven since 1999 for hemophilia, against bleeding strokes.

The study was conducted at 73 hospitals in 20 countries.

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77th Academy Awards

To the victor — and presenters — go the spoils

BY MARK CARO

Chicago Tribune

PARK CITY, Utah — DJ Qualls, best known as the skinny guy from "Road Trip," was wearing the end of his Sundance swag spree — an orgy of expensive goodie accumulation that had left the young actor hamstrung over how he was supposed to transport his piles of free stuff home.

"Dude, it's insane," he said. "I was supposed to leave two days ago, but I've been too stressed about editing my collection."

The 26-year-old Qualls, who appeared in the Sundance film "Hustle & Flow," was in the midst of a tour of the Levi's Ranch, where the jeans company and purveyors of Ray-Ban sunglasses, cosmetics and Xbox games were "gift[ing]" visiting celebrities.

Qualls collected several games, adding to a Sundance treasure trove that already included, by his accounting, a \$200 speaker system, a Lasik eye surgery gift certificate and a Dior coat lined with chinchilla.

"I've been doing nothing but this for three days," he said as he walked. "Seriously, it's bad. I'm a big of whore."

He's far from the only one. A huge, perverse industry has sprung up that's dedicated to giving complimentary goods to those who can most afford them: celebrities.

Presenters and performers at last week's Grammy Awards were given stuffed bears (officially \$500 pieces of Lancelu luggage) and backstage lounge giveaways worth an estimated \$34,000, including an iPod (the U2 edition), a Pioneer Acoustics CD stereo system, airline tickets, hotel packages, designer wear, various cosmetics and — drum roll, please — Trump Fragrance for Men.



An anti-smoking billboard rolls past the red carpet arrival area of the Kodak Theater, site of Sunday's 77th Academy Awards, as preparations are underway in the theater complex on Thursday in Los Angeles. Los Angeles County's public health agency is paying for three mobile billboards demanding that filmmakers keep smoking out of their films.

The Oscar bag contents have yet to be announced, but last year's was touted to be worth about \$75,000. As with the Grammys, the gifts go to the show's presenters and performers, not the nominees or winners.

But Distinctive Assets, the company behind the Grammy freebies, also is putting together unofficial consolation-prize gift baskets for the non-winning Oscar nominees in the four acting categories plus best director and picture. Those packages are valued

at approximately \$38,000, including a \$22,000 Las Vegas weekend package.

Meanwhile, Sundance Film Festival, the country's premier showcase for the credit-card-stretching work of fledgling filmmakers, simultaneously has become a playground for the covetous and famous.

With no official Sundance sanction, at least a dozen corporate-sponsored houses sprung up around Park City during last month's festival with the sole pur-

pose of getting brand names into the hands of celebrities.

To the companies involved, playing Santa Claus to the stars is justified as cutting-edge marketing. To the rest of us who generally can't afford the pricey goods being lavished on rich celebrities, it's yet another sign of a screw loose in the universe.

Call it the InStyle Effect. Years ago nobody knew what brand counterpart, TV or shower gel your favorite movie stars had in their lair.

Anti-smoking campaign eyes Hollywood on Oscar night

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Along with red carpet arrivals at Sunday night's Oscars, TV viewers worldwide may catch a glimpse of two billboard campaigns that chide Hollywood.

Los Angeles County's public health agency is paying for three mobile billboards demanding that filmmakers keep smoking out of their films. The billboards will be rolling near the Kodak Theatre, site of the 77th Academy Awards.

The whole world is watching. Keep smoking out of youth-rated movies," read the billboards, which feature a child's face.

A Dartmouth Medical School study last year found that children who watch movies in which actors smoke heavily are three times more likely to smoke themselves than those exposed to less on-screen smoking.

Jonathan Fielding, county public health director, hopes the campaign will persuade the film industry to devote as much attention to tobacco use among children as it

has to other health issues, such as AIDS.

"There is a real opportunity for the industry to really make a difference in this terrible epidemic of tobacco use among youth," he said.

Besides the rolling anti-smoking message, a conservative group has bought billboard space near the Kodak Theatre that takes a jab at Hollywood's political left.

Alongside a smiling President Bush, the billboards read, "4 More Years. Thank You Hollywood!" and "W. Still President. Thank you Hollywood!" The billboards, which are sponsored by a group called Citizens United, also feature mug shots of Michael Moore, George Clooney, Barbra Streisand, Martin Sheen, Whoopi Goldberg, Sean Penn, Ben Affleck and Chevy Chase.

The mission of Citizens United, according to its Web site, is to "reassert the traditional American values of limited government, freedom of enterprise, strong families, and national sovereignty and security."

That was before InStyle magazine demonstrated that a massive readership can be propelled from page to page with pretty pictures and brand names. Now countless magazines and TV celebrities about their favorite lip glosses, video games and any other imaginable product.

With celebrities becoming de facto endorser of everything they wear, use or consume, companies are directing their energies toward a new kind of product placement.

History of the Oscars: From bloc voting to ballyhoo

BY BOB THOMAS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — On the evening of May 16, 1929, some 300 film industry figures and their spouses gathered in the Blossom Room of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel to dine on snob and lobster and hear Douglas Fairbanks Jr. announce the first awards of the fledgling Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

There was scant press coverage and zero suspense. The winners had been disclosed two months before.

On Sunday, 3,300 people will pack the Kodak Theatre, one block east of the Roosevelt, to witness the 77th Academy Awards. ABC and hundreds of journalists will spread the news worldwide. Suspense will be high, the results known only to the ballot-toting accountants.

How will the Oscars transform from Rotary-style achievement dinner to international extravaganza? Here's a look at the progress and potboilers along Oscar's yellow brick road:

How long the Oscars?

Fairbanks dispensed the statuettes in

1929 in 10 minutes. The ceremonies grew and grew, scoring a record 4 hours and 5 minutes in 1990. Part of the expansion is due to the increase in categories: 12 in 1929, 24 in 2005. Another reason: The thank-you factor. Early winners felt no need to thank everyone from their fitness coach to high school teacher.

Chips off the old bloc

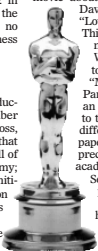
Walter Selzer, a publicist turned producer, recalls a meeting of the 60-member MGM publicity staff in 1939: "Our boss, Howard Strickling, announced that through the generosity of the studio, all of us as of now are members of the academy; he had enrolled everyone and paid the initiation fee. There was general jubilation and thanks, then he proceeded to tell us how we were to vote."

Bloc voting was a bugaboo for the academy during its first two decades. Bosses proclaimed that employees should vote for the home product for the good of their studios. Bloc voting ended in the 1950s with the decline of the studio system.

The birth of ballyhoo

In 1955, "Marty," a \$289,000 no-star movie about a lovelorn butcher, played David to a quartet of Goliaths: "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing," "Mister Roberts," "Picnic" and "The Rose Tattoo." Walter Selzer, publicity director for the company that made "Marty," and assistants Jerry Pann and Arthur Wilde devised an ad campaign to call attention to their modest film. "We ran it differently every day in the trade papers," says Pann. "We did the precursor of the screeners' ad of academy voters get won," recalls Selzer.

"We offered to send a print of the picture, a projector and a projectionist to the home of anyone who would invite 20 academy members to a screening." The campaign cost \$275,000, almost as much as the movie's budget, but a wise investment. "Marty" won four Oscars, including best picture, and encour-



aged other companies to campaign more vigorously for their Oscar hopefuls.

Party time

For the first 15 years the awards themselves were a party. The Hollywood elite gathered in hotel ballrooms to feast, drink, dance and applaud the winners. Such ostentation appeared unseemly during wartime, and from 1944 on, the ceremonies have been held in theaters. At first the parties afterward were casual affairs sponsored by studios. But in 1958, the academy began the Governors Ball, held after the awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Since the show took place downtown, ball attendees were faced with a cross-town drive. "After a few years, we decided that the ball would be held at the same location as the awards," says academy executive director Bruce Davis. Attendance at the ball has been cherted in recent years by lavish private parties held by Vanity Fair magazine, Elton John's AIDS benefit and others. "But everybody makes a stop at the Governors Ball," says academy spokesman John Park.

Bob Thomas has been covering the movie world for the AP for more than 60 years.

FACES

'Lost' actor still getting grip on fame



While filming the TV show "Lost" in Hawaii, Naveen Andrews hasn't had time to digest his success. But he realizes his character's Iraqi background has made it an interesting role.

Courtesy of ABC

British actor Naveen Andrews attributes his popularity to a sympathetic character

BY NANCY MILLS
New York Daily News

On "Lost," the new ABC-TV survivor drama, we know Naveen Andrews' Sayid as a rough-hewn former member of the Iraqi Republican Guard, an electronics expert who fought in the Gulf War. He has been trapped, kidnapped, chased and accused of being a terrorist and a hero. Not a Bollywood song-and-dance man.

But in "Bride & Prejudice," a musical version of Jane Austen's classic novel, Andrews plays Bal-

raj Bingley, the good friend of Mr. Darcy, the story's romantic hero.

Instead of early 19th-century England, the setting is modern India. And in place of a formal ball, the actors participate in what Andrews describes as "a strange amalgamation of traditional Indian dance crossed with MC Hammer."

Andrews has more in common with Bingley than Sayid. His parents moved to England in the mid-'60s, when "there was an open-door policy," he says. "All people in Britain's former colonies could come and work on the buses or clean toilets."

He was born in London in 1969

and speaks with an English accent, but, he says, "only when I came to America did I think of myself as British."

At 16, Andrews fell in love with his math teacher, moved in with her and had a son.

Although he got a scholarship to London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama — Ewan McGregor was a classmate — Andrews never expected to be successful. "There were no Indian actors from England of note earning money or having a career," he says.

A key role as the Sikh mine-hunter Kip in the 1996 Oscar-winning "The English Patient" kick-started his career. But

his life really changed in 1998 when he fell in love with actress Barbara Hershey while filming "Drowning on Dry Land." He moved to Los Angeles to be with Hershey, 21 years his senior, and they are still together.

Because "Lost" has been filming in Hawaii for the past five months, Andrews hasn't digested his newfound fame. But he is aware that Sayid's backstory — that he helped his childhood sweetheart escape from an Iraqi prison — has turned him into a sympathetic character.

"I've been very heartened by ordinary people's responses to Sayid," he says. "In Hollywood,

Middle Eastern characters are usually insubstantial. What drew me to Sayid is his technical knowledge and his ability to build things. Plus, he's a soldier. He's romantic and heroic. Audiences really like and care about him. I think people in this country are trying to connect with the so-called enemy in a way this government won't allow them to."

Andrews says he knows there are no guarantees he'll make it to the end of the season. "Any of us could die," he says. "They've got this monster wandering around, which, by the way, I haven't seen. It's genius on the part of the producers to keep us all in line."

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Q Toby Keith's daughter sang with him at the Country Music Awards. Is she following in his footsteps? — Renie Hill (city unknown)

A Not yet. Krystal, 17, promised her dad that she'd postpone her musical ambitions until she graduated from college. Toby, 43, upheld his end of the bargain by asking her to join him on "Mockingbird." How does he rate Krystal's performance? "She nailed it," says the proud papa.



Q A year ago, Charlize Theron was at the top of her game, earning an Oscar. What happened to her highly touted next film, "Head in the Clouds"? — Bill and Nancy Bush, Thousand Oaks, Calif.

A Perhaps her head was in the clouds when she signed on to star with boyfriend Stuart Townsend in that romantic war drama. It opened in limited release in September, then vanished after disastrous reviews. The video came out Jan. 25, if you must see it. Theron's next try at a hit is the sci-fi thriller "Aeon Flux," with Frances McDormand, due out later this year.

Charlize Theron's career might bounce back with the release of the sci-fi film "Aeon Flux" later this year.

Q I'm a big fan of William Petersen, who plays Grissom on "CSI." Why are the producers phasing him out? — Tricia Elliott, Frisco, Texas

A They're not. Petersen, 52, simply is reducing his workload because of health concerns. But the producers tell us the tension between Grissom and crime-scene partner Catherine (Marg Helgenberger, 46, one of our favorites) will continue — to keep viewers guessing.



William Petersen, better known by "CSI" fans as Gil Grissom, is appearing less because of health concerns.

Q Joan Rivers and daughter Melissa will cover the Oscars (tonight). Doesn't the TV Guide Channel realize how annoying they are? — Dorothy Shock, Springdale, Pa.

A Doesn't everyone?

Q I've liked "Lost" star Naveen Andrews ever since "The English Patient." What's his background? — S. Petrova, Washington

A Born in England to Indian parents, Andrews has been a rebel most of his life. He ran away at 16 to join a rock band, won a scholarship to a music and drama school, was taken in by his former math teacher and had an affair with her at 18. His love of older women continues: In 1998, at 29, he fell for actress Barbara Hershey, 50. They're still together.

Q I just saw the '57 film "12 Angry Men." How many of its stars are still alive? — Joe Sauer, Bethlehem, Pa.

A Just three: Jack Warden, 84; Jack Klugman, 82; and John Fiedler, 80. Joseph Sweeney died at 79 in 1963, Ed Begley at 69 in 1970; Lee J. Cobb at 64 in 1976; George Voskovec at 76 in 1981; Henry Fonda at 77 in 1982; Robert Webber at 64 in 1989; Edward Binns at 74 in 1990; Martin Balsam at 76 in 1996; and E.G. Marshall at 84 in 1998.

Q J. Simpson's daughter Sydney was arrested in Miami for assaulting an officer. Is it a case of like father, like daughter? — Roger Brown, Dover, Del.

A Sounds to us like she's suffering for the sins of the father, rather than repeating them. Simpson family attorney Yale Galanter says Sydney, 19, was charged with "resisting arrest without violence" after slapping a cop's hand during a "girls' cat fight" at a prep basketball game. "The girls did not press charges," he adds, "but the police went forward after learning Sydney's identity." The police naturally deny this.

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OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Overall spending unchanged The State, Columbia, S.C.

In Congress, a supplemental budget would be just that — an addition to the regular spending plans for unanticipated expenses. ...

The supplemental defense budget the White House rolled out this month features some truly unexpected costs, such as adding more armor and other protection for our troops and aiding tsunami-relief efforts. But it also includes some items that clearly should be in the regular budget: the costs of expanding the military and redeploying units, for example. It's part of an ongoing restructuring of our forces to meet the challenges of the war on terror, surely no one can pretend that it's a surprise. Why, then, is it not included in the regular defense costs?

This is an effort to fudge the overall budget numbers in the name of looking fiscally responsible. Its being done so that the president and Congress can brag about their spending cutbacks, when some of that money has just been moved onto a different balance sheet. We're still spending it.

Its a time-honored trick of Washington accounting. But this shell game should fool no one.

Influence far from authority (Denver) Rocky Mountain News

President Bush finally named the first director of national intelligence Feb. 27. The post was created Dec. 17 as part of the intelligence reform bill. The White House said the president took his time because he wanted to get the choice right. But he is known to have been turned down by three candidates, including former CIA Director Robert Gates, apparently over reservations about the actual powers of the job.

In the end, he turned to John Negroponte, 65, a career diplomat who has served the Bush administration in two demanding posts, currently as the U.S. ambassador to Iraq and before that as ambassador to the United Nations when the United States was increasingly at odds with the Security Council over how to deal with Saddam Hussein. The key question as he awaits Senate approval is: What kind of job is Negroponte getting? ...

Asked about the real power of the job, Bush replied that "people who control the money, people who have access to the president generally have a lot of influence." There is a real difference, as intelligence bureaucrats undoubtedly were quick to note, between influence and actual authority. It does not appear that Negroponte will have much of the latter.

Ex-presidents have their day Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

It seems appropriate that two former presidents spent Presidents Day working in behalf of tsunami victims in southern Asia. At the request of the current occupant of the White House, former Presidents Clinton and Bush have spent much of the last two months raising both public awareness and private dollars for the red-crossed-out devastation by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami.

They have done their jobs well. The tour, which took them to Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, will keep high public interest on relief efforts. In fact, it's estimated that 1 in 3 American households has already contributed money to tsunami relief.

But what's amazing in this era of vicious political attack and counterattack is to see



these two men working together and, apparently, enjoying each other's company. Don't forget that they were bitter political rivals in 1992; indeed, the success of the Clinton campaign denied Bush a second term. And it is no secret that the current president saw his successful run in 2000 as a vindication of his father's loss to Clinton.

What's going on here? Both former presidents have spoken about the good-headed nature of the American people as it relates to the tsunami, and they reflect that characteristic. Both were moved by the tragedy, which left at least 169,000 dead and tens of thousands with drastically altered lives. As former public servants, Bush and Clinton no doubt were pleased to be asked to serve again.

Critics may suggest that Clinton might see this as a way to parlay himself into leadership at the United Nations, and that "41" would do anything to help his son's standing in the international community.

Maybe so. But wouldn't it be wonderful if this was the start of something really big? Democrats and Republicans working together, respecting each other and really getting some productive work done? Honest folks disagreeing in the political arena but still willing to join hands for the common good? That's some relief we all could use.

Thompson's impact not hazy Chicago Tribune

One of the great phenomena of the 2004 presidential campaign was the rise of "The Daily Show," a cable TV satire that exposes the hypocrisy of American politics with a mix of fact and fiction and raucous laughs. Brilliant, yes. Entirely new, no. Anyone who read the "gonzo" journalism of Hunter S. Thompson from the 1972 presidential campaign could recognize the original.

Thompson, who committed suicide at his Colorado home last Sunday, was his own best character. He thrust himself into events, be it a presidential campaign, a car race or a ride with the Hell's Angels.

Over the years, though, the character dissolved into caricature.

Thompson's embrace of gambling, booze, drugs, firearms and his utterly bare personality drew more attention to him than his writing did. ...

Thompson was one of the original, brilliant practitioners of New Journalism, that hazy blend of the techniques of the reporter and the novelist that, at its best, found truths that standard journalism couldn't draw out.

Thompson, for a time, had a rightful place alongside Tom Wolfe, Truman Capote, Norman Mailer and other pioneers of the craft.

U.S.-Europe chasm not erased The Record of Bergen County, N.J.

It will take more than a whirlwind European tour for President Bush to repair the damage he has caused to some of America's oldest and strongest alliances.

For sure, his cross-Atlantic visit is a good start. And his conciliatory speech to European leaders last week was a welcome change from his administration's previous snide rhetoric toward these important allies.

But now the president will have to back up his words with actions. A deep gulf remains between the United States and the European Union on some crucial issues, including America's refusal to do anything about global warming and its rejection of the International Criminal Court.

The United States is wrong on both counts. But it's unlikely to budge as long as the Bush administration is in charge.

So America and Europe must look for areas in which they can cooperate. One of the most promising is the effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Bush the same, live or on tape The Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

President Bush has a right to feel betrayed by a friend who secretly tape-recorded private conversations with him as he contemplated a run for the White House in 1998.

Doug Wead, who has written a book about presidential childhoods, played the conversations to a reporter for The New York Times and his book editor. Fortunately for Bush, what he says confirms much of what he said during his 2000 presidential campaign.

He seemed to regret some of the decisions of his youth. "I wouldn't answer the marriage questions," he said. "You know why? Because I don't want some little kid knowing what I was doing."

He wasn't worried about the corrupting influence of power. "I have got a great wife. And I read the Bible daily. The Bible is pretty good about keeping your eye in check." ...

In other words, the private George Bush sounds an awful lot like the public president. We know who he is, which will reassure his friends and maybe even his more vociferous critics.

Coming clean on Vieques The Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.

More than 50 years of bombings and other training operations by the U.S. military on an island east of Puerto Rico couldn't help but leave environmental contamination in their wake. Former Puerto Rican Gov. Sila Calderon fought hard for the cleanup of the eastern portion of Vieques, plus the nearby island of Culebra.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency recently acknowledged the seriousness of the contamination, adding Vieques to its National Priorities List, also known as "Superfund" sites scheduled for cleanup.

Federal funds will pay to clean up a variety of dangerous chemicals listed by the EPA as possible contaminants on Vieques and in surrounding waters, including: napalm, TNT, depleted uranium, PCBs, solvents and mercury. Some of the same chemicals were discovered on Culebra, but the EPA hasn't finished its assessment. ...

The federal government has come a long way from confrontations with Vieques residents over live-ammunition drills.

Placing the area on the Superfund list reflects a proper moral duty to both Puerto Ricans and the environment.

Profanity helps paint picture Los Angeles Times

War is hell, unless the Federal Communications Commission has a say in the matter. Then it is reduced to heck, as occurred during Tuesday's broadcast of a "Frontline" report about U.S. troops fighting in Iraq. Fearful of being hit with stiff FCC indecency fines, the nonprofit Public Broadcasting System distributed a censored copy of a report chronicling U.S. soldiers charged with keeping Iraq's main highway open. The view of "Frontline" showed a small group of soldiers who did their best under tough conditions, and who reacted in entirely human ways when their lives were threatened by the enemy.

But some viewers ... saw the censored version of the report, which presented the remarkable fiction of soldiers in battle watching their language.

This country is awash in reality TV, except from the war front, where real-life portrayals are most needed. It's a shame that "Frontline" has become the latest casualty in an increasingly ugly culture war waged by conservative zealots eager to hijack the airwaves.

49 cats, 1 trailer

ME LAGRANGE — Two residents of a trailer from which Humane Society agents removed 49 sick cats have been charged with cruelty to animals.

Mary Delgizzi, 44, and Robert Venti, 54, are to appear March 1 in Lincoln District Court on the charge, a Class D offense punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000, according to Benbowset County Deputy District Attorney Michael Roberts.

Animal Welfare Program officials last week described the mobile home as "a giant litter box" with layers of feces and cat urine covering the floor and a horrible stench pervading the trailer.

Toot-went prompts suit

FL SANFORD — Call it flatulent footwear.

Customers complained that with every step, their shoes made the sound of someone passing gas.

"They were whoopie cushions for your feet," said Bryan Thomas, an officer with shoe maker Goosebumps Products Inc.

The Orlando-area company sued a supplier, accusing it of delivering the wrong chemical for an insole gel, giving the shoes an unwanted sound effect.

"It's very nearly put us out of business," Thomas said.

The suit claims Bell Chem Corp. of Longwood delivered a low-grade glycerin that was watered down in late 2002 and early 2003. That caused air bubbles to form inside the insoles, it said.

Location mixup

NM CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK — This natural wonderland made it onto a list of 10 favorite hidden parks — but the list hid it even more, by locating it in Arizona.

The Coalition of National Park Service Retirees released a list of members' favorite parks, but accidentally listed the archaeological site in Arizona instead of Chaco Canyon.

The 400-member group discovered the mistake and fixed it, said coalition coordinator Bill Wade.

"That mistake slipped through several reviewers, but really, we know it's in New Mexico," Wade said.

Man guilty of child porn

MD BALTIMORE — A man pictured molesting a young boy in an image distributed over the Internet pleaded guilty to sexually exploiting the boy for the purpose of producing child pornography.

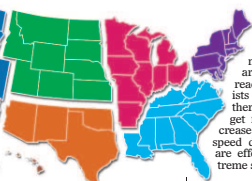
Thomas R. Evered, 39, a truck driver from Lolo, Mont., faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine, according to the U.S. attorney's office. He faces a minimum sentence of 15 years.

According to court papers, an FBI agent in Miami downloaded a file in 2003 from the Internet that showed a man and a boy engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Butt burns back

CA SAN FRANCISCO — No ifs, ands or butts about it, Jonathan Fish learned an expensive lesson about the dangers of littering.

The 20-year-old was cruising



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

across the upper deck of the Bay Bridge smoking a cigarette. He rolled down the window of his white 2004 Ford Expedition SUV and tossed out the butt, authorities said.

Instead of bounding along the pavement, however, the still-lit cigarette blew back in and set the interior of Fish's \$30,000 SUV ablaze, he told police.

Fish pulled over to the far left-hand lane and leaped from the Expedition. Fish had his hair singed but was otherwise unharmed.

Super speeders targeted

ME AUGUSTA — Law enforcement officials are looking at ways to get extreme speeders to slow down on Maine roads.

Last year, police wrote 1,662 tickets to motorists for speeding 30 mph or more over the posted speed limit, according to the Maine Judicial Information System. That's a 23 percent increase over the number of tickets issued in 2001 for going 30 mph or more over the limit.

It's not unusual for troopers to be stopping motorists going 30, 40 or even 50 miles an hour over the speed limit on Interstate 95, said Col. Craig Poulin, chief of the Maine State Police.

"We have had people stopped going well over 100 miles an hour, and it is becoming more frequent,"



Mopping up

Anderson College men's tennis assistant coach James Fitzgerald of Anderson, S.C., pushes standing water around one of the courts. Rain soaked the courts, but not enough to keep the team from practicing for a weekend match.

said Col. Craig Poulin, chief of the Maine State Police.

Public Safety Commissioner Michael Casara called the speeds reached by some motorists "obscene." He said there is money in the budget for state police to increase the number of aircraft speed details, which he said are effective in catching extreme speeders.

Cockfight ban nixed

NM SANTA FE — A state Senate committee rejected a proposal to ban cockfighting, making it unlikely the sport will be outlawed this year in one of only two states where it is still legal.

The Conservation Committee voted 6-2 to table the proposal after nearly three hours of impassioned testimony.

One committee member called the proposed ban a "ridiculous" waste of legislative time. "This is what you call a rural vs. urban issue," Sen. Phil Griego said.

The state House approved a ban in 2003, and a similar bill is pending there this year, but even if it passed the House, it would still run into trouble in the Senate.

Louisiana is the only other state where cockfighting is legal.

Alcohol in the park

HI HONOLULU — The City Council is considering a bill that would allow now-prohibited alcohol sales in three city parks. The proposal would give private contractors the ability to sell alcohol in exchange for assuming maintenance and security costs at the Central Oahu Regional Park, Waipio Soccer Complex and Hana L'O-ran Park.

Sharp nose seeks home

PA LANSFORD — A drug-sniffing German shepherd named Ajax needs a new home, after his human partner pleaded guilty to civil rights violations in a drug-planning scheme.

Lansford borough made the difficult decision to sell the dog because it would be too expensive to train another police officer about what commands to use and when to use them, Lansford council President Robert Gaughan said.

"To retrain another officer, we're looking at \$5,000 to \$6,000 till everything is all said and done," Gaughan said.

Ajax, bred and trained in Germany, cost \$21,000. He was donated to the borough in 2002 but Gaughan said the borough has not used him often.

KKK auction causes stir

MI HOWELL — A businessman who drew criticism from community and civil rights leaders for holding an auction of Ku Klux Klan items plans to hold another auction of similar materials, including a Klan robe.

Gary Gray of the Ole Gray Nash Auction House told WHMI-AM/ FM that he will auction off nearly a dozen Klan-related items April 9. Gray, 51, said publicity surrounding the first auction prompted many calls from people who had Klan-related items to sell.

The NAACP branch in neighboring Oakland County and other civil rights groups have blasted the auction as insensitive. Community and business groups also have said the auctions do nothing to fix Howell's racist reputation.



Sweet taste

A honeybee searches for nectar in a crocus in Bridgewater, Va.



Dog rescue

A Cambridge, Ohio, firefighter rescues one of two dogs from a burning home in Cambridge.



Recess flashback

Jonathan Osterbrock, a University of Colorado senior, right, watches his pass to Sam Huntington, a junior, left, in front of referee P.J. Petersen, a senior, during a game of four square near the Dalton Trumbo Fountain at the University Memorial Center in Boulder, Colo.



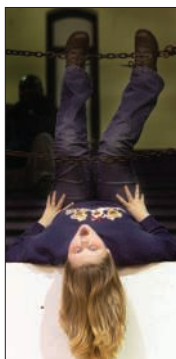
Creative covering

Tom Kurimski uses a little creativity to keep himself dry as he walks along Valley Drive in Las Cruces, N.M., by putting on bubble wrap.



Too big for his tractor

Miami East High School sophomore Ryan Rice peddles through an obstacle course at Miami East High School in Casstown, Ohio, as students celebrate Future Farmers of America Week.



Head over heels

Ten-year-old Erin Haley of Bowling Green, Ky., finds a unique way to watch a basketball game between Warren Central High School and Allen County-Scottsville High School in Scottsville, Ky.



Flying through flurries

As snow falls, a flock of Canada geese comes in for a landing at Veteran's Park in Woodbridge, Va.

Smoking mom spared jail

VA BOWLING GREEN — A woman forbidden by a judge from smoking around her two children admitted she violated the order but was spared a 10-day jail sentence.

Tamara Silvius was held in contempt of the order by a juvenile and domestic relations judge in August but appealed the sentence to Caroline Circuit Court. The no-smoking order was part of a shared child custody agreement. Tuesday, Circuit Judge Horace A. Revercomb III suspended the jail term as part of a plea deal between the prosecutor and Silvius' attorney.

Silvius shares custody of her children, ages 8 and 10, with her ex-husband. As a condition of visitation rights, a judge barred her from smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol around her children.

Tiny fish get big pond

NM ALBUQUERQUE — The city of Albuquerque and environmental groups reached a settlement in a five-year legal battle over the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow.

Organizations including the Sierra Club and National Audubon Society agreed to pursue no further legal action against the city in exchange for measures they said will help the tiny fish species to survive.

The minnow's primary habitat is the Rio Grande south of Albuquerque, a stretch of the river that sometimes runs dry because of drought and the need to provide water under interstate contracts.

Under the settlement, Albuquerque will set aside 30,000 acre-feet of water in a city reservoir to help preserve the minnow.

Focus on infections

MD ANNAPOLIS — Michael Bennett says his father suffered terribly before he died from fighting six kinds of hospital infections, and he doesn't want others to suffer the same way.

"He did not deserve this torture," said Bennett of his father, who entered a Baltimore-area hospital with pneumonia and died four months later after contracting the infections, including a flesh-eating bacteria that took his left leg. He was checked into five Baltimore-area hospitals before he died.

"He was betrayed by the people he trusted most — the doctors and the hospitals."

So Bennett is pushing for a state law that would require hospitals to publish reports on their infection rates. The nonprofit Consumers Union is promoting a campaign to push such legislation nationwide. The group argues hospitals will be motivated to improve their infection rates if they are required to publish reports.

Man guilty of tiger abuse

CA RIVERSIDE — A self-proclaimed animal rescuer was convicted of animal cruelty after investigators raided his compound and found dead tiger cubs stored in a freezer and dozens of tiger carcasses strewn about the property.

John Weinbart, 62, was found guilty on 56 of 61 charges, including animal cruelty and child endangerment. He could face more than

14 years in prison when he is sentenced March 22.

Investigators allegedly found 11 newborn tiger and leopard cubs lying in an attic space, 58 frozen tiger cub carcasses and the rotting or mummified carcasses of at least 30 exotic cats scattered around the property.

Investigators also found Weinbart's 8-year-old son in the trash and feces-strewn home.

TV coming to rail service

GA ATLANTA — The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority says it will be the first subway system in North America to have its rail cars equipped with televisions.

By spring, 115 MARTA cars will each have five 15-inch televisions aboard for passengers to watch while traveling. Each television will be tuned to news programming from Atlanta's ABC affiliate, WSB-TV.

MARTA will get a cut of the revenue from the advertising on the televisions and the on-train music channels.

Big trouble for Big Dig

MA BOSTON — Hundreds of tie leaks in the Big Dig tunnel could increase the project's \$14.6 billion price tag, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation inspector general.

In the Feb. 16 memo, obtained by the Boston Globe, Inspector General Kenneth M. Mead said he would not authorize release of \$81 million in federal funds for the Big Dig until he receives an accounting of how many leaks there are and how much it will cost to repair them.

The memo indicates that three months after the revelations about the tunnel leaks, the top federal overseer of the project remains unconvinced that the problem is under control.

Manure fire finally out

NE MILFORD — It took nearly four months, but to the relief of neighbors for miles around, a burning manure pile has been extinguished.

David Dickinson, owner and manager of Midwest Feeding Co., said that several weeks of pulling the 2,000-ton pile apart proved effective by late last week.

"We got far enough through it that it quit," Dickinson said.

Naked joke not funny

FL KEY WEST — A prosecutor who may have had a little too much to drink thought it would be funny to run naked across a parking lot and hop into a friend's car.

It was funny, until he jumped into the wrong car.

Albert Tasker, who works for the Monroe County State Attorney's Office, apparently got in the back seat of a car occupied by a woman waiting for her boyfriend.

The woman screamed and her boyfriend appeared.

After the woman called 911, a Key West police officer found the naked Tasker in the middle of the parking lot.

Tasker, 28, was arrested faces charges of disorderly intoxication and indecent exposure.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

YOUR MONEY

Change may increase troops' tax refund

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

Some troops may get hefty refunds this year thanks to tax-credit options for servicemembers who were deployed to a combat zone in 2004.

The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 gives servicemembers the option of whether to include their nontaxable combat pay in figuring eligibility for the earned income tax credit, said Capt. Andrew Slitt, Wiesbaden (Germany) Tax Center officer in charge.

"This year, soldiers don't get penalized for their deployment income," Slitt said. "They can include it in their income or choose not to, whichever is more beneficial to them in figuring the

earned income credit."

The earned income credit primarily involves lower-income filers with children. The credit is based on income, with minimum and maximum income limits affecting how much of the credit a person earns. Soldiers may choose to add nontaxable combat pay to earn more of the credit, Slitt said.

Similarly, servicemembers can choose whether to include their nontaxable pay for computing the child-tax credit, which also has minimum and maximum income

"This year, soldiers don't get penalized for their deployment income."

Capt. Andrew Slitt
Wiesbaden (Germany) Tax
Center officer in charge

ware that the tax centers use and it automatically figures out if it is better to include the combat pay or not.

Slitt gave the example of an E-5 from the 1st Armored Division who had spent two months down-

requirements.

The change affects only nontaxable pay for troops in a combat zone, and does not include nontaxable allowances, such as housing and food, according to the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov).

Slitt added that the change is updated in the software at the tax centers use and it automatically figures out if it is better to include the combat pay or not.

Slitt gave the example of an E-5 from the 1st Armored Division who had spent two months down-

range. The soldier had \$23,000 of taxable wages and \$5,760 in combat pay.

The software tax office determined that the E-5's earned income credit including the combat pay would be \$1,355. The credit was \$2,566 without the combat pay.

In the end, the soldier got a \$7,300 refund, Slitt said.

While the changes could increase the refund for a servicemember who was deployed to a combat zone, IRS tax-filing extensions ensure they won't be penalized for filing late. Overseas civilians, servicemembers who were not deployed and other Americans not affiliated with the military have until June 15 to file their 2004 tax returns, Slitt said. However, if filers

owe taxes, they will pay interest beyond from April 15, he said.

Servicemembers who were deployed to a combat or hazardous-duty zone have 180 days from the date they return to file their taxes or from the date they leave the hospital if they were hospitalized from an injury in the combat zone, Slitt said. The extensions could lead to servicemembers missing two years of taxes this year, he said.

"If a soldier deployed in February 2003, he gets the extension from February to April 15 (2003), plus the 180 days at the end of the extension," he said. "We've had many soldiers coming in to file for 2003 and 2004 at the same time."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@starsandstripes.osd.mil

For some, no purchase is too small for credit

BY DINA ELBOGHADY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON For years, Marcia Levi refused to accept either credit or debit cards for purchases under \$10 at her downtown gift shop, Chocolate Moose. Customers complained. She lowered the threshold to \$5. Customers still complained, so two years ago she gave up on any minimum.

"People come in and charge \$2.25 for a card or \$1.75 for jelly beans," said Levi, who co-owns Chocolate Moose with her sister Barbara. "It's annoying. In the past two years, they've just whipped out the card without thinking about it, no matter how small the purchase."

The persistence of her customers was no accident. Visa International, MasterCard Inc. and other card companies are working hard to make sure that no purchase is too small for plastic.

A new niche

Faced with a saturated market where just about everyone who wants a credit card has one, the companies have set their sights on what by one estimate is the \$1.32 trillion in cash spent every year on purchases less than \$5. Emboldened by consumers willing to download songs at 99 cents a pop or cell phone ring tones at \$2 apiece, card companies are courting fast-food chains, taxicab companies and parking-meter manufacturers that have traditionally accepted only cash. Even American Express Co., whose cards are associated with expense accounts and luxury purchases, teamed up with PepsiCo Inc. to roll out credit card-accepting vending machines last year, mostly in casinos, malls and convention centers.

To woo these merchants, at least the high-volume ones, card companies started lowering the fees they charge them. They also began making better use of technologies that speed up processing and have made card users no longer have to sign for some purchases.

"Card companies tapped out the low-hanging fruit within the merchant community," said David Robertson, publisher of the Nilson Report, a payment card trade journal. "Now they're going after merchants that have been reluctant to accept credit and debit cards."



Barbara Perkins of Elite Marketing, left, helps Brandy McGough of Farmington, Ark., sign up for a new credit card, Wal-Mart Discover, in Fayetteville, Ark. In an effort to encourage credit card payments for transactions less than \$5, credit card companies are wooing merchants with low fees and speedier processing.

All aboard

The push appears to be working. Credit and debit card payments under \$5 totaled \$13.5 billion last year, more than three times as much as they were in 2000, according to research firm CardWeb.com Inc. Charges under \$10 climbed to \$35.5 billion, more than six times as much as in 2000.

Angela Keo of Silver Spring, Md., certainly does her part. On a recent visit to McDonald's, Keo used her debit card to buy a cheeseburger and a yogurt parfait. Later, she used it to buy a pack of cigarettes at one convenience store and a bottle of soda at another, she said.

"I don't carry any cash ever because it's easy to lose, very easy to spend and too hard to keep track of," said Keo, 22. The mentality "absolutely drives me nuts," Levi said. That's because each time shoppers like Keo swipe plastic at her store, Levi pays a hefty fee.

That swipe triggers an electronic exchange between the bank that issued the card and the merchant bank that processes it for the store.

As the banks work to authorize the purchase, they tap into multibillion-dollar infrastructure. To help pay for that, banks assess retailers fixed and variable fees per credit card transaction.

Also factored into those fees are the risks card companies assume by guaranteeing payments to the merchants, even in cases of fraud.

Levi said she easily pays 55 cents in fees on a \$2.25 greeting card, depending on the brand of credit card used. That's more than half of her \$1 profit margin, she said. For debit cards, she pays a flat fee of 35 to 45 cents per transaction.

"It may not sound like much, but if you do that 100 to 200 times a day, that really eats into your profit margin," Levi said. Her best hope is that the larger purchases offset losses on the smaller ones.

Visa and MasterCard joint ventures made of up of thousands of banks that issue credit and debit cards — prohibit merchants from setting minimum payment American Express, which issues its own credit cards, discourages minimums but allows them if the merchants apply the same limits to other cards they accept.

Card company executives recognize that the fee structure is a deal-breaker for many of the cash-based merchants they're pursuing.

"We know what the stumbling blocks are," said Carl Pascarella, president and chief executive of Visa U.S.A. Inc., which has the largest number of cards in use, about 458 million. But Pascarella said he's confident that Visa can overcome resistance from merchants, as it did when it first rolled out credit cards decades ago, and then debit cards, which gained popularity in the mid-'90s and helped spur card transactions for low-value items.

This is something that is really in an embryonic stage," Pascarella said. "We have a lot of merchant education to do, and we have a lot of fine-tuning to do with our pricing."

Fine-tuning begins

When Visa stopped requiring signatures for purchases of \$15 or less in 2003, it also relaxed the merchant fees it charged. As a result, Visa transactions at fast-food restaurants nearly doubled in dollar value between 2003 and 2004, Pascarella said. Sales of other small credit items jumped 25 percent, to \$6.5 billion, in the same period.

Meanwhile, even without signatures, fraud remains at an all-time low of 5 cents for every \$100 spent on Visa cards. The company's research shows that low-value purchases tend not to attract fraud. And even if they did, Visa guarantees its payments to merchants.

The guarantee is one of the benefits card companies highlight as they pitch their services to traditionally card-averse retailers.

Another pitch: faster transactions. Swiping a card without signing receipts can be faster than fumbling around for pocket change, they say. And now, all the major card companies are experimenting with getting rid of the swiping altogether so that transactions move even faster.

MasterCard offers PayPass, a card consumers can tap on specially equipped terminals. McDonald's Corp. now accepts in select stores. American Express Co. is phasing in similar wave-and-go ExpressPay plastic devices at CVS Corp. stores. "We walk away much more often from long lines, both companies said."

Washington Post staff researcher Richard Deen contributed to this story.

YOUR MONEY

401(k) not enough for highly paid worker

Q: I am one of those highly paid workers who manage to contribute to a 401(k) is limited because not enough of the lower-paid employees at my company participate in the plan.

The good news is that my company will be implementing automatic enrollment for new and nonparticipating employees. The bad news is participation still won't be high enough to allow me to contribute the full \$14,000 this year to the plan. Is there anything else I can do now?

A: The rules that limit your contributions were put in place to prevent employees from favoring their executives and other highly compensated employees at the expense of the rank and file. "Highly compensated" typically means any employee who makes more than \$95,000 in 2005. The cap you face as a higher-paid employee depends on how many of your lower-paid colleagues contribute and how much they put in.

As you've heard, automatic enrollment can help boost participation among all workers and increase the amount that higher-paid workers can contribute. That's why about half of the companies Hewitt Associates recently surveyed said they were planning to institute automatic features in their plans, such as signing up employees as

soon as they start work or boosting contribution levels each year. Instead of waiting for workers to act, the plan would make the moves and require those who don't want to participate to opt out.

But automatic enrollment is not a cure-all. Most companies with automatic enrollment set the default contribution level at 3 percent, which is typically too low to eliminate the cap you face. It's also too low to ensure the rank-and-file employees a decent retirement, but that's another subject.

To boost your retirement kitty, you can contribute as much as \$4,000 a year to a Roth IRA for yourself and another \$4,000 a year for your spouse. That's assuming your income is below the Roth contribution limits of \$110,000 for singles and \$160,000 for married couples filing jointly. If your income exceeds the limit, you can contribute the same amounts to a nondeductible, traditional IRA.

Neither IRA gives you a tax break for your contributions, but the Roth allows you to withdraw your money tax-free in retirement, which is why it's the better choice if your income allows.

Beyond that, you could open a taxable

brokerage account and invest as much as you wanted. You won't get a deduction for your contributions, but you could qualify for lower capital-gains rates on your returns. By contrast, withdrawals from 401(k)s are taxed at higher income tax rates. You can limit your tax burden further by choosing index funds, which tend to generate lower tax bills, and mutual funds with bonds, which are usually tax-free.

Q: One of my credit card companies charged me a late fee that put my balance over the card's limit, and then it added an over-limit fee. When I refused to pay it, it kept adding late and over-limit fees, then called repeatedly to harass me about payment.

I've since hired an attorney to negotiate a \$150-a-month repayment plan, but I want the company to subtract all the fees it charged. Can my debt be reduced by that amount without the company reporting it as a settlement to the credit bureaus?

A: You can always try. Sometimes creditors and collection agencies are willing to report debts as "paid as agreed" or "paid in full," which is typically better for your credit than having a debt reported as "settled." To get the most negotiating leverage,

you'll probably need to offer a substantial lump-sum amount rather than a continuing payment plan.

The difference in your score may be hard to notice, though, because you've done a thorough job of trashing your credit. You may not have liked the company's policy on fees, but its practice of letting late fees trigger over-limit fees is pretty standard and was almost certainly discussed to you in the fine print of the agreement you signed to get the card or in a follow-up disclosure included with your statement.

Your stubbornness about paying your bill turned what could have been a private matter between you and your credit card company over a \$29 fee into a more public dispute. Once you're more than 30 days overdue on a bill, lenders typically report your delinquency to the credit bureaus.

If you let this nonsense go on so long that the original account was charged off and turned over to a collection agency, then your credit may take years to recover.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit: Know How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 1040 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via her Web site, www.lizweston.com. She regrets that she cannot respond personally to queries.

Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week low	52-week high	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week low	52-week high
10,820.52	10,706.40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,748.79	+15.50	+0.15	+2.25	1,063.56	1,070.00
3,623.96	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	2,689.25	+66.51	+2.50	+1.10	277.27	287.00
552.82	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	249.06	+1.97	+0.8	+2.75	10.00	10.00
7,117.79	6,211.33	S&P 500 Composite	2,828.28	+40.00	+1.4	+4.07	100.00	100.00
1,506.18	1,524.74	NASDAQ Composite	1,524.74	+14.63	+0.96	+0.80	100.00	100.00
2,193.60	1,750.82	NASDAQ Composite	2,051.70	+24.05	+1.2	+5.69	3.00	3.00
1,217.50	1,064.72	S&P 500	1,064.72	+14.63	+1.37	+4.83	100.00	100.00
568.18	540.29	S&P MidCap	540.29	+61.39	+11.4	+14.35	100.00	100.00
566.11	516.92	Russell 2000	527.56	+77.02	+14.5	+16.88	100.00	100.00
12,624.35	10,358.52	10-Wireless 2000	11,314.04	+275.50	+2.4	+1.39	100.00	100.00

NYSE

Most Active (\$1.00 or more)				Most Active (\$1.00 or more)				Most Active (\$1.00 or more)			
Name	Vol	(00)	Last Chg	Name	Vol	(00)	Last Chg	Name	Vol	(00)	Last Chg
Alcoa	317343	3.19	+0.01	SPDR	666683	128.24	-7.9	Nasdaq100	966410	37.41	-4.74
Amgen	29581	26.40	+0.01	Schering	6621	25.37	+0.1	Microsoft	107	99.06	-0.01
Boeing	27825	2.84	-0.01	SP	13150	25.66	-0.01	Walmart	8205	24.09	+1.16
ExxonMobil	27620	61.1	+1.71	Shr12	8395	24.99	+1.16	Yahoo	57755	23.70	-0.38
General Electric	27545	17.38	-0.01	Wal-Mart	8205	24.09	+1.16	Intel	106288	48.48	-6.64
Johnson & Johnson	27545	17.38	-0.01	Wal-Mart	8205	24.09	+1.16	Apple	106288	48.48	-6.64
Pfizer	27545	17.38	-0.01	Wal-Mart	8205	24.09	+1.16	Google	106288	48.48	-6.64
Roche	27545	17.38	-0.01	Wal-Mart	8205	24.09	+1.16	Facebook	106288	48.48	-6.64
Schering	27545	17.38	-0.01	Wal-Mart	8205	24.09	+1.16	Twitter	106288	48.48	-6.64
Unilever	27545	17.38	-0.01	Wal-Mart	8205	24.09	+1.16	LinkedIn	106288	48.48	-6.64
Viacom	27545	17.38	-0.01	Wal-Mart	8205	24.09	+1.16	Slack	106288	48.48	-6.64
AMD	181712	17.62	+1.02	SP	5043	43.11	-0.01	US 500	45819	1.12	-0.01
Genentech	158818	35.55	+0.50	Shaplan	46130	18.58	+0.01	US 500	45819	1.12	-0.01
Home Depot	158818	35.55	+0.50	Shaplan	46130	18.58	+0.01	US 500	45819	1.12	-0.01
Walmart	139561	13.00	-0.01	MadCatz	34089	1.49	-0.01	US 500	45819	1.12	-0.01

AMEX

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	Div P	PE	Last	YTD Chg %
Alliant Technology	-	16	68.66	+38.56
Aero Holdings	-	17	40.18	+38.14
Boeing	1.00	23	51.94	+1.22
Boeing Sciences	-	18	65.86	-18.6
Engineered Sys	1.19	19	54.80	+4.4
General Dynamics	0.47	17	101.95	+91.6
General Electric	0.80	22	35.55	+3.6
Johnson & Johnson	1.50	15	53.04	+4.4
Harris Corp	0.48	28	46.66	+1.89

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	NAV	YTD Chg %		
Fidelity Invest: Grnciv	71.49	+22.1		
Fidelity Invest: Grncio	54.78	+61.3		
Amer Century Inv Trust	28.50	+23.3		
Fidelity Spartan: Etc	42.56	+35.3		
Putnam Funds A: Crdsk P	10.16	+16.3		
Fidelity Invest: A SMCp	16.11	+06.3		
Frank/Temp Fnd A: MgrC	33.75	+39.3		
AIM Investments: Comst P	22.12	+22.3		
Fidelity Invest: US8I	11.12	+27.3		

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Vol	FE	Last	% Chg	YTD % Chg
Airbus	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2
Boeing	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2
General Dynamics	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2
Honeywell	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2
Lockheed Martin	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2
Northrop Grumman	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2
Raytheon	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2
Textron	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2
United Technologies	1,000	21	33.84	+2.2	+4.2

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	% Chg	YTD % Chg
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4
Fidelity Inter. Bond	27.69	+2.2	+1.4

EXCHANGE RATES

Japanese yen (Feb. 25)	102.00
South Korean won (Feb. 25)	978.00
Euro (Feb. 25)	\$1.0568
British pound (Feb. 25)	0.7354
Swiss franc (Feb. 25)	0.7036
Commercial rates	
Bahrian (Dinar)	0.3777
British pound	\$1.912
Canada (Dollar)	\$0.7141
Denmark (Krone)	\$5.621
Egypt (Pound)	\$0.25
Euro	\$1.0568
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7569
Hungary (Forint)	163.28
India (Rupee)	46.46
Israel (Shekel)	4.952
Japan (Yen)	102.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2619
Norway (Krone)	2.48
Philippines (Peso)	7.473
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.970
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0568
South Korea (Won)	978.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.7036
Thailand (Baht)	36.49
Taiwan (New Dollar)	24.63
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates, see (purchasing British pounds in Germany check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars to the euro, and the euro, which is dollars to the euro.)	

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Scams target troops' kin

MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Many scams take advantage of recent emotional events or tragedies. Two new scams are preying on relatives and friends of American servicemen who have died in Iraq.

Both of the scams are perpetuated via e-mail, reports the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, part of the Department of Homeland Security. They entice the recipient to share personal and financial information.

The first is an e-mail supposedly from a "friend of a friend of the deceased soldier." The sender promises, on behalf of your family, to secure money that is owed to your deceased relative. Of course, the sender needs more of your personal and financial information to secure this money.

The second scam is similar to the well-known "Nigeria scam," in which the sender asks for your help (and bank account number) to retrieve funds from that country in exchange for a share of the money.

This one claims to be from a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official who wants your help in tracking down funds looted from the Iraqi Central Bank by one of Saddam Hussein's sons.

The story is real — Saddam Hussein authorized the withdrawal of millions before the U.S. invasion in March 2003 — but government investigations of the matter ended a year later.

To keep from getting scammed, the Federal Trade Commission recommends:

- Do not reply to any of these messages or click on any links contained within the message.
- Do not download or open any attachments contained within the message.
- Make sure the anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.

If you receive these scam e-mails, or any others, report it to the FTC. Simply forward the e-mail to spam@uce.gov. If you've been taken in by such a scam, file a complaint at www.ftc.gov.

Discover why
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First Command

First Command
www.FirstCommand.com

Sunday Horoscope

The moon and Jupiter are in artistic Libra, the sign of aesthetic genius. Cosmic Physics energy emphasizes the inner resources needed to create. The novelist John Steinbeck, born on this day in 1902, said about creativity: "Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon, you have a dozen."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 27. You believe in yourself this year, and others believe in you, too. In fact, you are being groomed for advancement over the next 10 weeks. Relocation is an option, but take it slowly, and investigate carefully before making a move. In May, your confidence attracts passion. Big money follows an educated risk in July. Love signs are Taurus and Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Dropping some outmoded idea about who you are is lucky! Model your actions after the extremely well-mannered. It will widen your circle of friends and colleagues and get you invited to the places everyone wants to be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You wake up with no plans, no agenda either mental or written, and no idea what the day will bring. Is this the recipe for adventure or disaster? Team up with a Sagittarius, and it's definitely the former.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your excellent taste guides others. Why is it your job to point out the glenly obvious or ineffectively bad? Because it just is. So state your piece quickly, like someone pulling off a bandage, and move on.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are supersensitive to all the many forces at work that affect you. When someone disrupts your mission or infringes on your rights, then in the moment what they are doing is deserving of stinging up resentment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're back to the feeling that you don't quite know yourself well enough to

move forward in life. A hint for self-knowledge: Your actions reflect your personal policy, which is either virtuous or conscious.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Get physical. Taking on a big cleaning project has Zen benefits.

It's remarkable what a little hard work can do for your body, soul and spirit. Your love life revs up as a result.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everyone wants to feel secure — it's a basic human need. But in some area, you are using the idea of security as a weapon to suffocate your dream. Don't wait until things are perfect to move ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The world responds kindly to your honesty and appreciates your lack of pretense. Because you're so open, you're physically a bit vulnerable now. Fight games by washing your hands often.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your social mores are challenged as you endure someone's bad dinner party or thoughtless comment. Flipping about the situation will bring you the admiration of one who matters to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not alone in your pursuit, or at least you don't have to be. Family members want to help you, but you have to ask — and then inspire, cajole and cheer them on. With teamwork, you get the job done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sure, you're a dreamer. But shouldn't a firmly entrenched goal include a crystal-clear image of what you want to be? Live in that image for a few hours, and you'll bring your dormant or struggling desire back to life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Conflict issues come to the fore. You'll find yourself vexed by someone's inadequacy, but it would be the height of rudeness to correct your offender. Just be double sure that you are not a perpetrator of a similar offense.

Creators Syndicate

'Kid' older than you may think

Please tell me when, where, and how the term "kid" came to mean a child.

We can be pretty sure that the use of "kid" to refer to a child is an extended use of "kid" to mean the young of some animals. "Kid" is most familiar as the word for a young goat, but in fact it was formerly used and in some cases can still be used for the young of various other related animals. The word is ultimately of Scandinavian origin.

The use of "kid" to mean "a child" is not at all recent development. Its first known appearance in writing was in a 16th-century comedy called "The Old Law."

The Oxford English Dictionary states that "kid" in this sense was originally "low slang" but that became established in more general use during the 19th century.

The "child" sense of "kid" first became common among the British, and the British have fully accepted it. It is, undoubtedly, an informal word, but that need not be seen as a disadvantage. "Kid" in this sense can be found in the works of many of America's finest writers: Robert Frost, Bernard Malamud, Frank O'Connor, and Mary McCarthy among others.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's, 111 Lincoln St., 02112, Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Military spouses are the unsung heroes of combat deployments

Dear Abby: I am writing to tell you about some of the bravest, strongest, most resilient people I know — military spouses. So often people write you about problems, troubles or issues. Perhaps my letter will bring a smile to someone's face.

I am in the Army, currently deployed in Iraq. Here, I have to worry about are my soldiers and myself. They are great guys who make it easy for me, as they all act maturely and professionally.

While I am here, my wife is back home worrying about me. She does all the chores around the house, cooks, takes care of our three sons, helps them with homework, holds down a full-time job, and still finds time to keep our children enrolled in whatever extra activities they can do.

She is now filling the roles of both mother and father. Her strength amazes me. Once she went away for 10 days to attend a wedding, and I had to take vacation time to keep up with the house and the kids.

I'm not saying my wife walks on water — although she swims well — but a lot of people send messages over here to the soldier and say, "Thank you for your service." I personally think

the unsung heroes are the ones who fill the shoes of the soldiers when they are deployed.

I have been gone for a year and can't wait to return home. I'm planning family time. Mom and Dad time, and I'm also going to let my wife have some time of her own. I just want your readers to know that soldiers' families have people we look up to, too, and who we think are true American heroes.

— **Loving Soldier**

In Iraq

Dear Soldier: I'm printing your love letter because I know you speak for many of those seeking their country far from home. I agree that it takes a special kind of person to be a military spouse, someone with strength, courage and self-reliance. Military spouses are, indeed, unsung heroes.

Dear Abby: I am 18, good-looking, and in great shape, but I haven't had a girlfriend since 2000. I am pretty sure the reason I refuse to have sex until I am married. I am very religious. When I marry and devote myself to my wife, I will be able to truly say she has all of me physically, emotionally and spiritually. I want to look her in the eye and tell her honestly

that I saved myself just for her.

A lot of girls in college are just looking for sex, and that's not me. Granted, I do date — but after about two weeks, when they find out I don't want to have sex, they don't like that. It has become frustrating to the point that my parents asked me if I was gay, because I haven't brought home a steady girlfriend.

Does any girl my age want a nice guy? It doesn't seem that way. I'm considering changing my persona and becoming a hard-time partier and forgetting about my commitment to abstinence, because it seems that girls just want the "bad" boy. If you would respond to that, it would be great. God bless.

— **Alone in Arizona**

Dear Alone: Please don't give up or compromise your values. My dear departed Grandma A.B. had a saying: "If you want to know about, don't go fishing in a herring barrel."

Since you want a girl with strong conservative values like your own — and they do exist — affiliate with a church-based youth group, or try an Internet Christian dating service. Many girls just want to meet someone just like you, so don't give up.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Explaining religious conversion to parents may be touchy subject

Dear Annie: My wife and I were raised Christian, and growing up, we attended church off and on. We've been married for 10 years, and although we do not go to church, we have instilled our values and beliefs in our children.

Our daughter recently asked us what religion we are. My wife and I both looked at each other and said, "I don't know." We have had many discussions in the past about our beliefs and have come to the conclusion that we are not really "Christian." After much research, we discovered that we identify more with the Jewish faith. We have since contacted a rabbi and are talking about attending synagogue services.

We are not being irrational about this. We're talking about our beliefs for years. We just never really pinpointed which religion felt right until our daughter asked us.

Our problem is, how do we explain this to our parents? I don't think they will understand our decision.

— **Soon-to-Be California Jews**

Dear California: Your parents may never understand your decision, because religious belief and observance are intensely personal.

However, if you discuss with them the research you have done and the reasons behind your conversion, they might be able to accept it.

Keep in mind that your parents may see this not as a religious choice, but as a complete rejection of religion and the way they raised you. Try to be sensitive to that possibility and reassure them that it was their values which led you in this direction, and that your newfound faith will not cause a rift.

Dear Annie: My husband and I recently celebrated our 25th anniversary. I'm the eldest of five siblings and the only one still married to my original spouse. My siblings are all in their second or third marriages.

Each time one of my siblings remarried, my parents gave them a very generous monetary gift. However, for this big anniversary, they sent us only a greeting card.

We felt slighted. We are both professionals, have no children and are comfortable financially, so money is not the issue. But they didn't offer to commemorate the day by taking us to dinner or doing anything special. Do we have to get divorced to get their attention? I'm sure my parents have no idea how upset we are. Should we broach the subject or suffer in silence? We find ourselves avoiding them because of the hurt. What do you suggest?

— **Silver Anniversary**

Dear Silver: You should speak up, otherwise this small tear could turn into a large chasm. This has nothing to do with your siblings, for whom your parents would naturally want to give gifts when they marry. However, 25 years together is quite an accomplishment these days, and it would have been nice if the occasion had been marked with more celebration. You cannot demand that your parents buy a gift or take you to dinner. That is up to them. But you can let them know how you feel.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Margy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@earthlink.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Dear Abby



Dear Abby

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RELIGION

Racing and Jesus: Whatever brings them in

Church in Virginia tries to connect to community with NASCAR Sunday

BY BILL FREEHLING
The Free Lance-Star

MINUTES before one of Sunday's services at Salem Fields Community Church, Thomas Foster drove a few laps around the Daytona 500 track.

The 8-year-old was in Spotsylvania County—not in Florida for the big race. He was taking his turn in a simulator that lets people experience driving in NASCAR's premier event.

Inside the yellow No. 5 Kellogg's car—which has an engine but can't be driven—were steering wheels, accelerators, brake pedals and video screens.

Two drivers at a time could race the 23-car field.

The car was parked outside Salem Fields as part of NASCAR Sunday, the church's second annual event combining racing and Jesus.

Pictures of NASCAR drivers were

throughout the Gordon Road church.

A mini No. 8 car and Goodyear tire were

on its stage, where a

band played country. Church officials wore black T-shirts saying "NASCAR Sunday pit crew."

A big-screen television set was put for the race.

The point, said co-pastor Buddy Marston, is to attract people who love NASCAR but haven't been going to church.

"Our church tries to find what the culture connects with," Marston said.

"And then connect them with Christ and the church."

It seemed to work. About 700 people attended Sunday's 11 a.m. service, and

church officials estimate another 700 people took to the weekend's other two services.

"Our church tries to find what the culture connects with. And then connect them with Christ and the church."

Buddy Marston
Co-pastor of Salem Fields Community Church, Fredericksburg, Va.

than most churches.

Most people wear blue jeans and T-shirts—attire that church member Ken

Lardie said is more welcoming.

Sunday's service opened with a band blasting out the lyrics of "I'm From The Country."

But then the service got serious. Marston, who is co-pastor with his wife, Gaye, delivered a sermon about the importance of never lying.

Using a NASCAR metaphor, he said his marriage was troubled until he started being honest.

"We were on this giant oil slick," Marston said.

The church served lunch and showed the race after the 11 a.m. service. People lined up for their shots inside the No. 5 car.

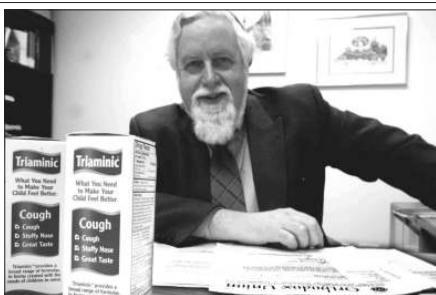
Thomas Foster had already been there, done that. He grinned widely after exiting the car, shyly saying he had won the race.

Buddy Marston said during his sermon that he was glad for "outside-the-box" activities such as the NASCAR simulator.

After all, whether the drivers win, lose or draw, they're doing so at church. And that's the point.

Rabbi Eliyah Safran, senior rabbinic coordinator for Orthodox Union, says Triaminic cough syrup, is the first over-the-counter medication the union has certified as acceptable under the dietary laws of Orthodox Judaism.

AP



Over-the-counter drugs go kosher

Triaminic passes the test; can Maalox be far behind?

BY ELIZABETH LESURE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK—Name-brand foods like Oreo cookies, Duncan Hines cake mixes and Raisin Bran cereal are among the thousands of packaged goods on supermarket shelves that are certified as kosher.

But it's not so easy to find kosher-certified over-the-counter medicines, which Rabbi David Heber called "the last frontier."

That may be changing. The Orthodox Union, the most recognized certifier of kosher products in the country, has endorsed Triaminic cough syrup, making it the first mainstream over-the-counter medication the union has deemed acceptable under the dietary laws of Orthodox Judaism.

Efforts to develop a kosher Maalox are in the preliminary stages.

Triaminic, in packages bearing the OU symbol, was shipped to stores beginning last July after a division of the brand's parent company, Novartis Consumer Health, worked with the union for a year and a half to certify eight varieties of the syrup.

Smaller labels and herbal or homeopathic lines have been certified in the past. And the anticid Tums was approved by Diamond-K, a smaller certifier, in the late 1990s, according to Rabbi Rachmiel Liberman, Diamond-K's executive director.

But many mainstream, brand-name products are problematic for observant Jews because of ingredients like gelatin or glycerin, which contain materials derived from non-kosher animals.

Though prescription medications are not subject to dietary laws because they are considered lifesaving, Orthodox rabbis

say vitamins or products used to treat non-life-threatening conditions should be certified as kosher when possible, especially because they often contain flavors that make them more palatable.

"It makes things easier when you're dealing with children and they're sick," said Arlene Mathes-Scharf, a food scientist who runs kashrut.com, a Web site that posts information about kosher products.

Rabbi Eliyah Safran, senior rabbinic coordinator for the Orthodox Union, said the kosher-certified cough syrup would appeal broadly not only to Jews who keep kosher but to others who follow religious dietary guidelines or are lactose intolerant.

"Consumers are more sophisticated today," Safran said. He likened the symbol of kosher certification to the Good Housekeeping seal of approval.

Relation of Genesis to ancient myths creates dissension

BY RICHARD N. OSTLING

The Associated Press

The Bible opens by depicting the creation from the cosmic viewpoint, after which it repeats the story from an earthbound vantage.

Some may be shocked by the idea that the first account (Genesis 1:1-2:3) might have links with ancient pagan myths. But conservative as well as liberal scholars consider this likely.

However, they differ on the extent and meaning of the relationship.

Relevant pagan writings are assessed by Victor Hurowitz of Israel's Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in the cover story for the 20th anniversary issue of the ever-interesting Bible Review magazine.

In 1876, George Smith, a British engraver who became a cataloger of ancient texts in the British Museum, published English translations of myths from ancient Mesopotamia (today's Iraq). They included a creation story titled "Enuma Elish" from the first two words in Akkadian, translated as "when above."

Smith thought the Genesis creation "was simply an abbreviated Hebrew version of a more ancient Babylonian tale," Hurowitz writes.

A 1902 book by Germany's Friedrich Delitzsch popularized the idea that Genesis simply transferred the leading god of "Enuma" into the God of Israel. Hurowitz says Delitzsch's "anti-Semitic and anti-Christian insinuations" indicated that "Mesopotamian religion was on an equal if not higher level than that of the Hebrew Bible and that the Bible contains no religious truth of its own."

A more moderate 1951 interpretation came in Alexander Heidel's "The Babylonian Genesis." He said the similarities between Genesis and "Enuma" weren't as striking as earlier scholars claimed and "the divergences are much more far-reaching and significant than are the resemblances."

Both writings sought to explain the same phenomena but might be totally unrelated, he said, since these general ideas were abroad in ancient times.

Conservative scholars readily acknowledged a literary relationship. But Meredith Kline of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts wrote that in Genesis, the Mesopotamian myth's "worldview is repudiated, even ridiculed, and most effectively so" at the points where the two texts correspond.

Kenneth Mathews of Beeson Divinity School in Alabama said that "Enuma" is interested mostly in the origin of various gods and cultural institutions, including Babylon itself. Most important, perhaps, the Babylonian gods did not create the cosmos but merely organized pre-existing matter.

"The specific parallels are fewer than originally thought, and even the best ones are not entirely certain," he concludes. Both writings developed humanity's common beliefs "in their own unique manner."

AM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — KANTO

EAGLE 810
Morning (Sun)
 7:55 Religious Programming
 9:00 Eagle 810 Sunday Brunch (Smooth Jazz)
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 4:00 A Prairie Home Companion
Evening
 6:00 Focus on the Family
 6:30 Travel Radio
 7:00 Dr. Laura
 8:00 Beale Street Caravan
 9:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative/Mon-Fri)
 2:00 Sports Overnight America
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation (Tue-Fri)
 4:00 NPR On the Media (Mon)
 5:00 NPR Living on Earth (Mon)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 Eagle 810 Morning Show (Contemporary Hits)
 7:57 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
 7:20 Pacific Report
 7:25 Paul Harvey Best of the Story
 7:28 Eagle 810 News
 7:30 Zama Commander's Corner (1st & 4th Friday)
 7:00 Zama Commander's Corner (2nd & 4th Friday)
 Yokota/USFJ Chief's Corner (3rd Friday)
 10:00 Retco Cable (70s, 80s, 90s)
Afternoon
 12:25 Pacific Report
 12:47 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
 12:51 Air Force Radio News
 2:00 Top 40 Music
 4:00 Traffic Jamz (Current Chart Hits)
 4:05 Pacific Report
 4:07 AFN Sportspage
 4:12 Paul Harvey Best of the Story
Evening
 6:00 from the Bench Live Sports (Wed)
 7:00 NPR's Morning Edition Live
 Yokokusa Commander's Corner (1st & 3rd Thursday)
 8:00 Rush Limbaugh
 9:00 The Touch (Urban); Mon/Country; Tue/Pure Gold (Oldies); Wed/rock of the 60s (Classic Rock); Thu/The Touch (Urban); Fri
 12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)
 2:00 Sports Overnight America
 2:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live
Morning (Sat)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered Live
 8:00 Car Talk
 9:00 Kim Komando
 10:00 Classic Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)
Evening
 6:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show
 7:00 The Touch (Urban)
 7:20 Z-Rock (Alternative)
POWER 1575
 7:00 NPR: All Things Considered

8:00 Rush Limbaugh
 9:00 Parent's Journal
 10:00 Chris's Table
 11:00 Sports Overnight America
Afternoon
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
Evening
 7:00 Hot AC
 10:00 The Touch (Urban)
 10:00 The Touch (Urban)
 3:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 Morning Air Strike
 6:30 Paul Harvey News
 7:10 Horizon
 7:30 Inside Inwaku Radio News
 8:30 Best of the Story
 8:35 David Letterman/Leno
 9:00 Country Call Up
 10:00 Bright AC/Golden Oldies (Fri)
 11:00 Urban Assault
Evening
 10:00 Z-Rock (Oldies/Fri)
 2:00 The Afterburner
 2:30 Inside Inwaku Radio News
 2:34 Best of the Story
 2:35 Pacific Report
 3:30 Paul Harvey News
 3:40 AFN Sportspage
 4:00 departure Time
Evening
 6:00 Fresh Air
 7:00 The Rock Show (Mon/Old School
 (Thu)/The Mosh Pit (Fri)
 12:00 Country
 2:00 Sports Overnight America
Morning (Sat)
 6:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 10:00 Soundbarrier
Afternoon
 2:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
Evening
 6:00 NPR: All Things Considered
 7:00 The Jim Rome Show
 8:00 The Touch
 12:00 Z-Rock
 5:00 Hot Jazz

6:00 Matt In the Morning
 9:00 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 Classic Rock
 3:00 Edge Afternoon Radio
Evening
 6:00 Country
 8:00 R&B
 7:00 Hot AC
Morning (Fri)
 12:00 Z-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh
 6:00 Matt in the Morning
 9:00 Fastback
 11:00 Hot AC
Evening
 12:00 Classic Rock
 1:00 Inside The Line
 3:00 That Country Show
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 8:00 R&B
 10:00 Hot AC
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Z-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Hot AC
 6:00 Oldies
 8:00 Car Talk
 9:00 Saturday Retro
Evening
 12:00 Classic Rock
 3:00 Nuestra Musica
 5:00 Kim Komando
Evening
 6:00 Jim Rome
 7:00 Z-Rock
 9:00 Hot AC

JAPAN — SASEBO

THUNDER RADIO 1575
Morning (Sunday)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Soft Hits
 7:00 Religious Programming
 10:00 Focus on the Family
 10:30 The Environmental Show
 11:00 Savvy Traveler
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 4:00 Top 40
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 6:00 Z-Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 Jim Rome
 7:00 Classic Rock
 8:00 Sports Overnight America
 9:00 Country
Afternoon
 12:00 "The Jan" w/ Nikki V. (Mon, Wed and Fri)
 12:00 Urban Music (Tue and Thu)
 3:00 "The Rush"
Evening
 6:00 Jim Rome
 9:00 Top 40

JAPAN — MISAWA

THE EDGE - AM 1575
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Z-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Hot AC
 6:00 Car Talk
 7:00 Religious
 8:00 Classic Rock
 10:00 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)
 4:00 Adult Rock
Evening
 6:00 Prairie Home
 8:00 Hot AC
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 Z-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh

FM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — YOKOTA

FM CABLE Radio Services (On Base Only)
 2-Z-Rock (Alternative) 90.3 FM
 Eagle 810 (Variety) 90.7 FM
National Public Radio (News, Talk) 91.3 FM
Adult AC (Pop) 91.7 FM
Bright Rock (Classic Rock) 92.3 FM
The Touch (Urban) 92.7 FM
Country 93.3 FM
Pure Gold (Oldies) 93.7 FM
Hot AC (Today's Hits) 94.3 FM
National Public Radio
Morning (Sun)
 6:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 8:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 11:00 Prairie Jazz
Afternoon
 12:00 Beethoven Network
 1:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 2:30 Dialogue
 2:30 Unknown Knowledge
 3:00 The WMFT Jazz Network
 3:00 Jazz Profiles
Evening
 6:00 Walt, Walt, Don't Tell Me
 7:00 A Prairie Home Companion
 9:00 Weekend Edition Sunday
 11:00 Justice Talking
 12:00 Fresh Air Weekend
 1:00 This American Life
 2:00 Show with Harry Shearer
 3:00 on the Media
 4:00 Newsweek Radio
 5:00 Weekly Edition

Morning (Mon)
 6:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 8:00 The WMFT Beethoven Network
Afternoon
 12:00 Car Talk
 12:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 2:00 Fresh Air Weekend
 3:00 The WMFT Jazz Network
Evening
 6:00 Morning Edition
 8:00 The Connection (call in)
 10:00 Fresh Air
 2:00 Walt, Walt, Don't Tell Me
 3:00 The Connection (call in)
 5:00 All Things Considered
Morning (Tue-Fri)
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Marketplace
 8:30 Says You (Tue) Latino USA (Wed)
 Living on Earth (Thu) Uncommon Knowledge (Fri) Rewind (Sat)
 9:00 The WMFT Beethoven Network
Afternoon
 1:00 All Things Considered
 3:00 The WMFT Jazz Network
Evening
 6:00 Morning Edition
 11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in)
 12:00 The Connection (call in)
 1:00 Fresh Air
 2:00 Walt, Walt, Don't Tell Me (Tue/Fri)
 3:00 Says You (Wed) Newsweek (Thu) Car Talk (Fri) Dialogue/Uncommon Knowledge (Sat)
 3:00 That's the Nation (call in)
 5:00 All Things Considered
Morning (Sat)
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Marketplace
 8:30 Rewind
 9:00 The WMFT Beethoven Network

Afternoon
 1:00 All Things Considered
 3:00 The WMFT Jazz Network
Evening
 6:00 Thrift & Shamrock
 7:00 Weekly Edition
 8:00 Rewind
 8:30 Says You
 9:00 Weekend Edition Saturday
 11:00 Car Talk (call in)
 12:00 Beale Street Caravan
 1:00 Weekend Edition Saturday
 2:00 The Connection (call in)
 3:00 National Press Club
KOREA
EAGLE FM
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Z-Rock
 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 8:00 Christian Contemporary
 9:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 10:00 Saturday Night 8's
Afternoon
 12:00 Bob Kingsley's Country Countdown
 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
Evening
 9:00 Z-Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 Z-Rock
 5:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Ulsan, Incheon, Taegu and Osean)
 10:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Taegu and Osean)
Afternoon
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Live Local Show (Korea-wide)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Rock

8:00 Urban Adult Contemporary
 9:00 Adult Rock
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Z-Rock
 5:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 8:00 Saturday Morning Wake-up (Korea-wide)
Afternoon
 12:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
Evening
 9:00 Adult Rock

OKINAWA

FM - WAVE 88.1
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 4:00 Adult Rock
Evening
 6:00 Adult Rock (Hot AC)

Morning (Saturday)
 12:00 Top 40
 4:00 Classic Rock
 7:00 All Things Considered
 8:00 Best of Our Knowledge
 9:00 Classic Rock
 10:00 Car Talk
 11:00 Top 40 Show (live)
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees American Top 40
 4:00 Nuestra Musica
 5:00 Country
 6:00 Adult Rock
 8:00 Urban

KOREA

Thunder AM
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR's Weekly Edition
 7:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 10:00 Nuestra Musica
Afternoon
 12:00 Oldies Radio
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
 6:00 NPR Car Talk
 7:00 Prairie Home Companion
 8:00 NPR Weekend Edition Sunday
 11:00 Country
Morning (Mon)
 12:00 Country
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 This Week with Sam & Coke
 8:00 Oldies Radio
Evening
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Noon Report
 2:00 Jim Rome Show
 3:00 Country
 6:00 Evening Report
 8:00 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 12:00 Country
Morning (Tue-Fri)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 8:00 Oldies Radio
Evening
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 5:00 Jim Rome Show
 6:00 Evening Report
 8:00 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 12:00 Country
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 8:00 Oldies Radio
Evening
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 5:00 Jim Rome Show
 6:00 Evening Report
 8:00 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 12:00 Country
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 11:00 FOX Sports
Evening
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 1:45 Paul Harvey
 2:00 Country
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country (live)
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 10:00 Adult Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 Adult Rock
 2:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Rock
 (Notes: The table is subject to change due to sports schedules.)

12:00 Country
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 6:00 Country
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 Adult Rock
 9:00 National Public Radio

OKINAWA

SURF 648 AM
Morning (Sunday)
 6:00 Adult Rock (cont.)
Evening
 7:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 12:00 Country
Morning (Mon)
 7:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 11:00 Jim Lampley (live) Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 Steve Schlinger
 1:00 Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 2:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 7:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country (live)
 1:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (live)
 2:00 Country
Morning (Tue-Thu)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 11:00 FOX Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country (live)
Morning (Fri)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Country
 11:00 FOX Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 1:45 Paul Harvey
 2:00 Country
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country (live)
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 10:00 Adult Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 Adult Rock
 2:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Rock
 (Notes: The table is subject to change due to sports schedules.)

AM RADIO SPORTS AND SPECIALS

OKINAWA
SUN, FEB. 27
Morning
 6:00 College Basketball: Arizona Wildcats at Washington Huskies
KOREA
SUN, FEB. 27
Morning
 6:00 College Basketball: Missouri Tigers at Texas Longhorns
 6:00 College Basketball: Arizona Wildcats at Washington Huskies
OKINAWA
SUN, FEB. 28
Morning
 4:15 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series
 Auto Club 500 at California Speedway, Fontana, Calif.
 9:00 NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Orlando Magic
TUE, MARCH 1
Morning
 11:00 College Basketball: Oklahoma Sooners at Texas Longhorns
WED, MARCH 2
Morning
 9:00 NBA Basketball: Sacramento Kings at Charlotte Bobcats

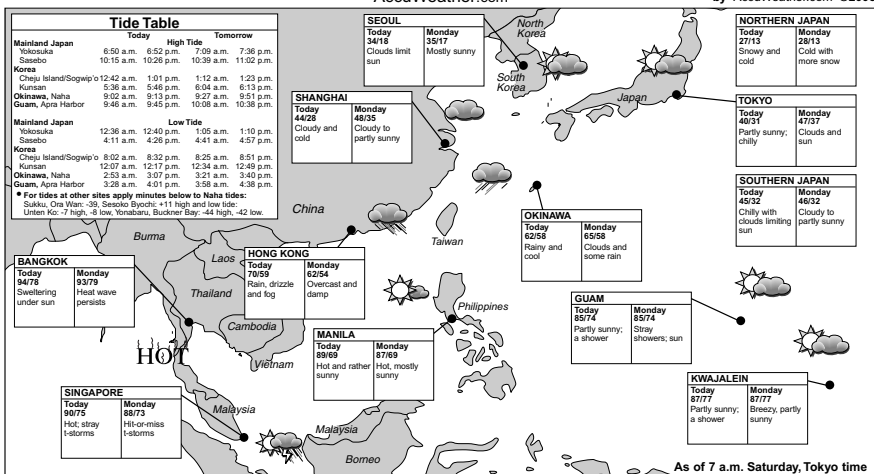
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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, high 42, low 29.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 40, low 30.

KADENA

Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 67, low 55.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 62, low 55.

SEOUL

Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 31, low 15.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 31, low 17.

MANILA

Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 69.
Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 68.

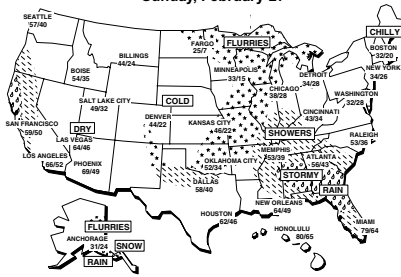
HAGATNA

Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 75.
Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 76.

Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	43/28	Los Angeles	64/50
Amarillo	53/32	Little Rock	56/36
Anchorage	34/24	Louisville	47/33
Asheville	52/28	Miami	84/66
Baltimore	36/23	Milwaukee	36/19
Birmingham	60/35	Nashville	48/34
Bismarck	34/12	New York	35/26
Boise	55/30	Omaha	54/24
Boston	28/18	Orlando	72/58
Brownsville	65/56	Philadelphia	35/22
Buffalo	27/18	Phoenix	67/48
Burlington	23/8	Pittsburgh	32/20
Charleston, SC	54/37	Portland, OR	61/38
Charlotte	55/29	Portland, ME	29/10
Cleveland	33/22	Salt Lake City	50/30
Columbus, OH	37/26	St. Louis	53/32
Duluth	26/4	San Antonio	53/44
El Paso	49/34	San Diego	63/53
Hartford	31/14	San Juan	83/74
Helena	48/20	Tampa	70/58
Indianapolis	44/30	Tucson	60/38
Jacksonville	57/49	Washington, DC	36/28
Kansas City	58/29	Wichita	62/35

Sunday, February 27



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system will move through the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday, bringing rain to the Mississippi Valley and Southeast. This system will move into the mid-Atlantic region on Monday with snow changing to rain at the coast and remaining as snow farther inland. The system will affect New England Monday night into Tuesday. Meanwhile, some snow will accompany another system moving through the Great Lakes on Sunday. A bit of rain will fall from Wisconsin on Monday to Texas along the associated cold front. The rain will mix with snow in the northern areas as thunderstorms develop in the Texas Panhandle. The Rockies will be dry, but a storm system will bring rain back to northern California.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	36/18	Sasebo NB	27/13
Beijing	40/24	Seoul	34/18
Camp Casey	36/18	Shanghai	44/28
Christchurch	70/47	Singapore	90/75
Diego Garcia	88/75	Sydney	77/63
Hagatna	85/74	Taegu	43/27
Hanoi	77/62	Taipei	64/54
Hong Kong	70/59	Tokyo	40/31
Honolulu	80/65		

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/72	Budapest	34/13	Kabul	91/57
Athens	62/50	Buenos Aires	86/59	Kiev	29/26
Auckland	72/59	Cairo	86/56	Kuwait	77/65
Baghdad	75/54	Cancun	81/66	London	37/28
Barbados	86/69	Cape Town	84/64	Madrid	46/25
Barcelona	51/34	Geneva	29/13	Mexico City	70/46
Berlin	21/8	Istanbul	56/37	Montreal	20/13
Bermuda	61/49	Jerusalem	68/48	Mogadishu	93/79
Brussels	23/14	Johannesburg	80/59	Moscow	19/10



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Some won, some lost in flurry of trades

By SAM SMITH
Chicago Tribune

Once they would have been somewhat of a dream team: Gary Payton and Baron Davis in the backcourt, Antoine Walker and Glenn Robinson at forward and Chris Webber in the middle. Now they're the wishes and hopes of the desperate.

These five former All-Stars were among almost half-dozen players to change teams late Wednesday and Thursday in one of the wildest NBA trading deadline days in recent memory.

Walker, a free agent-to-be, is surprisingly returning to Boston, which he left amid bitter complaints about selfish play from general manager Danny Ainge. To bottom-feeder Atlanta goes Payton, and the over/under on him coming up with a season-ending hamstring injury is about a week. The Hawks also could release him and let him sign with a contender.

Robinson, also a free agent-to-be who hasn't played all season, goes to salary-clearing New Orleans, which dealt Baron Davis to the Warriors.

Webber went to the 76ers late Wednesday. He's expected to fuel their run to the vaunted Atlantic Division title and give them a chance to finish above .500.

Other big names (now lacking big games) among those traded were former All-Stars Tom Gugliotta, Dale Davis and Vin Baker and such solid contributors such as Nazr Mohammed, Malik Rose, Corliss Williamson, Jiri Welsch, Rodney Rogers, Keith Van Horn, Spence Claxton and Mo Taylor. And Steve Smith was said to be headed to Miami.

The bigger surprise might be who wasn't traded: The Toronto Raptors, with almost half their roster demanding trades at some point this season, failed in their bid to land a high draft pick and kept Donyell Marshall, Jalen Rose and Eric Williams. Coach Sam Mitchell hasn't said if he intends to fight any of them now that the deadline has passed.

The Milwaukee Bucks retained free agent Michael Redd, making a deal designed to free up money to re-sign him.

And the Portland Trail Blazers held onto free agents Shareef Abdur-Rahim and Damon Stoudamire, perhaps to save coach Maurice Cheeks' sanity.

Here's a look at who came out ahead and who didn't:

Winners

Philadelphia 76ers: Wednesday's late deal for Webber gives them scoring help for Allen Iverson. On Thursday they added Rogers, a favorite of coach Jim O'Brien from their Boston days and another perimeter threat. The Webber deal cost them depth (Williamson and Kenny Thomas), the Rogers deal money. They took on inactive Jamal Mashburn, whose contract runs through next season. But they're out from under Robinson, who goes to the Hornets.

It's a nice short-term move for the 76ers, but Webber is owed



Analysis
The Sacramento Kings will find out if they are a better team without Chris Webber, who went to Philadelphia in a six-player deal.

more than \$60 million for the next three seasons. And like Iverson, he's a strong personality who likes to monopolize the ball and the team.

There's potential for fireworks. The 76ers play the Kings on Saturday.

Cleveland Cavaliers: They picked up point guard Welsch from the Celtics for a No. 1 pick in 2007. The Cavs believe they can make a serious playoff run and hope Welsch can relieve their perimeter shooting problems.

Milwaukee Bucks: Sure, you thought they'd never overcome the loss of Zenden Hamilton. They also sent guard Mike James to Houston and cleared salary space by sending Van Horn to Dallas for free agent Alan Henderson and Calvin Booth. It should position them to re-sign Redd and retain a nucleus moving forward while adding reserve guard Reese Gaines.

Houston Rockets: James is a good pickup to replace Bob Sura, who is out indefinitely with knee problems. The addition of Sura and Jon Barry helped ignite their plodding offense. The Rockets also get guard Mookie Norris in the Taylor deal.

Sacramento Kings: They gave up Webber, the best player in all the deals, but there's that addition-by-subtraction thing.



Guard Baron Davis (1), a two-time All-Star who finished sixth in the NBA in scoring last season, will form a potent backcourt combination with Golden State's Jason Richardson.

With Webber the Kings were 38-31 the last two regular seasons. Without him they were 51-16. Team insiders say Webber's return slowed down the Kings' season after they'd been in first place much of the season, and he was overly critical of certain teammates, most notably Peja Stojakovic.

The Kings are a different team with Wade Davis and Doug Christie gone and Bobby Jackson hurt again. They want to build around Stojakovic, Mike Bibby and Brad Miller without Webber dominating things. Thomas and Williamson are role players who should help.

San Antonio Spurs: Not that they need to get better, but Mohammed is a nice pickup as a backup big man. He's having his

best season, and they were already ready to pay a team to take Rose's contract, which has four years and more than \$27 million left after this season. The Spurs give up their 2006 No. 1 and the Suns' No. 1 this year.

Losers

Boston Celtics: It's never quite clear what they're doing. They hated Walker and his game, so they got him back with two months left on his contract. They also traded both their point guards, Payton and Welsch, in order to play rookie Delonte West? Gugliotta and Michael Stewart went to Atlanta with Payton for Walker. The Hawks also get a No. 1 pick.

New York Knicks: It may be the way to go, but they'll now have a way to go. They took on more than \$30 million in salary again — wouldn't you like to work there? — but also seemed to start a commitment to rebuilding through the draft by acquiring picks, though not great ones. They get the Suns' No. 1 for this season (Phoenix has the Bulls' from the Luol Deng trade) and the Spurs' for next season. They get two more undersized power forwards in Taylor and Rose and give up starting center Mohammed and point guard Norris.

Dallas Mavericks: Van Horn seems like a decent pickup for Henderson and Booth, who rarely play. But Van Horn, with a \$16 million salary next season, recently returned from an ankle injury and doctors are limiting him to 15 minutes a game. Just what Dallas needs: another shooter who doesn't defend. They do this and couldn't afford to pay Steve Nash?

NBA deadline deals Wednesday

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Acquired F Chris Webber, F Matt Barnes and F Michael Bradley from the Sacramento Kings for F Brian Skinner, F Kenny Thomas and F Corliss Williamson.

Thursday

BOSTON CELTICS—Traded G Jiri Welsch to Cleveland for a 2007 first-round draft pick. Traded G Gary Payton, F Tom Gugliotta and C Michael Stewart to Atlanta for F Antoine Walker and a first-round draft pick.

DENVER NUGGETS—Traded F Nikoloz Tskitshvili and F Rodney White to Golden State for F Eduardo Najera, G Luis Flores and a first-round draft pick.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Traded G Spence Claxton and F Dale Davis to New Orleans for F Baron Davis.

MIAMI HEAT—Acquired G Steve Smith from Charlotte for F Malik Allen and cash considerations.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Traded G Mike James and C Zenden Hamilton to Houston for F Reese Gaines and a 2006 and a 2007 second-round draft pick. Traded F Keith Van Horn to Dallas for F Alan Henderson, C Calvin Booth and cash.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Traded Chaz Mohammed and G Jason Brewer to San Antonio for F Malik Rose and a 2005 and a 2006 first-round draft pick. Traded G Vin Baker and G Mookie Norris to Houston for F Maurice Taylor.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Traded F Glenn Robinson to New Orleans for F Jamal Mashburn and F Rodney Rogers.



Jiri Welsch, who was acquired by the Cleveland Cavaliers for a 2007 first-round draft pick to the Boston Celtics, will be counted on to help the Cavs' outside game.

Golden State Warriors: Perennial back and attitude problems make Baron Davis a huge risk. A backcourt with him and Jason Richardson seems explosive, if not defensive-minded. But this will almost certainly lead to a trade of Mike Dunleavy for a role-playing big man because they have so many players on large long-term contracts and so few inside players.

Davis didn't exactly endear himself to his last college-to-pros coach, Tim Floyd. The Warriors also had to deal Eduardo Najera's long-term contract to Denver to save money and get draft busts Niko Vukobratovic and Rodney White.

New Orleans Hornets: Mardi Gras fireworks are over, so they blew up the team. They're dumping salary to stay in business by getting rid of Davis and Rogers, and Jamal Magloire may be next when he returns from injury. They also have some money getting rid of Mashburn's contract, but they got the expiring \$12 million deal of Big Dog Robinson, plus Claxton and Dale Davis from the Warriors.

Kings face short without Webber

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Whenever the Sacramento Kings played the Dallas Mavericks the last few years, they turned to Chris Webber, Doug Christie or Vlade Divac to come up with big baskets or defensive stops.

Those days are long gone now. Webber joined Christie and Divac as ex-Kings with his trade to Philadelphia on Wednesday night. In the first game without Webber, Sacramento opened strong and was up by nine in the fourth quarter, but wound up losing 122-113 in Dallas on Thursday night.

Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks' comeback by scoring 17 of his 34 points in the final period, including a short jumper with 4:39 left that put Dallas ahead for good. Michael Finley added two three-pointers after that to send the Kings to their third loss in four games, and seventh in nine.

The Webber trade and an injury to Peja Stojakovic left the Kings with only eight players, while Dallas opted to use only eight. The Mavs dressed just 10, including two rookie centers fresh off the injured list, because earlier in the day they sent big man Alan Henderson and Calvin Booth to Milwaukee for Keith Van Horn. Jerry Stackhouse also was out with an injury.

Dallas used its reserves a lot more than Sacramento, and the fresher legs seemed to pay off. The Mavericks had a 13-2 run among their season-best 40 points in the fourth quarter while the weary, emotionally drained Kings went nearly 4½ minutes without a field goal down the stretch.

"Our team is very resilient and if we are to get through this, we're going to have to fight through this," Sacramento coach Rick Adelman said. "Being in the road, making a trade and having Peja out, there are no answers. We have to play hard and smart and we'll be OK."

This loss made for a bad start to a six-game, nine-day road trip that continues Saturday — in Philadelphia, against Webber and the



Roundup

76ers. At least Sacramento will have its three new players and maybe Stojakovic, too.

Playing at home for the first time in 16 days, Dallas maintained the momentum of its 5-0 road trip, a franchise best that included wins in Phoenix, Seattle and Sacramento.

Marquis Daniels started for the first time since Dec. 6 and had season-highs with 29 points and eight assists, plus nine rebounds.

Finley added 22 points, six rebounds and four assists.

Josh Howard had 16 points and nine rebounds, and Devin Harris added 11 points.

Mike Bibby and Cattino Mobley each scored 26 for the Kings, and Darius Songala got off to a good start in his increased role by posting a career-high 23 points and a season-high 12 rebounds.

Kings 113, 76ers 101: At New York, Kurt Thomas celebrated the passing of another uneventful trading deadline — at least for him — by scoring 21 points on 10-for-11 shooting to lead his team.

"I haven't been moved yet, so I might end up finishing my career here," said Thomas, whose name was mentioned most frequently in pre-deadline trade speculation.

Thomas also grabbed 12 rebounds, and Tim Thomas scored 27 points for New York.

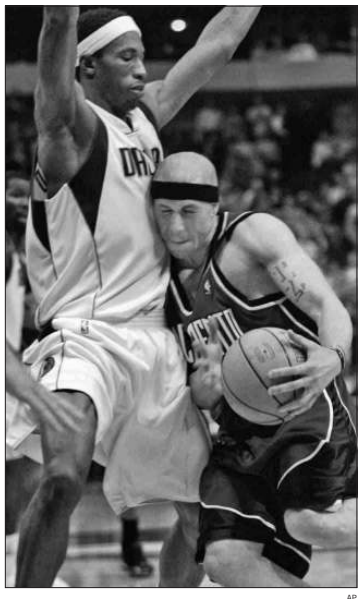
Philadelphia, which had only eight players in uniform — none of them named Chris Webber — was led by Allen Iverson's 29 points.

Stephon Marbury had 17 points and 12 assists, and Jamal Crawford added 16 points and nine assists for New York, which also was short-handed after trading Nazr Mohammed, Mookie Noris, Vin Baker and Jamison Brewer earlier in the day.

Clippers 92, Timberwolves 86: At Los Angeles, Elton Brand scored 24 points and helped the Clippers snap an eight-game losing streak.

The Clippers, returning from a 1-8 road trip that jeopardized their playoff hopes, never trailed while beating the Timberwolves for the first time in 10 tries. Corey Maggette added 19 points for Los Angeles and Chris Kaman had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Latrell Sprewell had 17 points



Sacramento Kings guard Mike Bibby, right, is fouled by Dallas Mavericks guard Josh Howard, left, in the second half on Thursday.

for the Timberwolves, but reserve forward Eddie Griffin sat out the second half after breaking his finger and Michael Olowokandi limped out of the arena with an injured right knee.

Kevin Garnett had 14 points and eight rebounds while playing just 32 minutes because of foul trouble.

Thursday night's loss to the Los Angeles Clippers, averaged 7.9 points, 6.2 rebounds and 1.67 blocks since signing as a free agent in October.

He will miss at least five games and be eligible to return on March 6.

Bucks waive Henderson

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks waived forward Alan Henderson on Friday, a day after acquiring him from the Dallas Mavericks.

The Bucks traded Keith Van Horn to Dallas for Henderson and center Calvin Booth in a cost-cutting move that will enable general manager Larry Harris to make a big offer to Michael Redd, who will become an unrestricted free agent after the season.

T-wolves activate Madsen; place Griffin on injured list

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves activated forward Mark Madsen from the injured list on Friday and put forward Eddie Griffin on the list with a broken finger in his left hand.

Madsen broke his left thumb on Jan. 7 against Philadelphia and had surgery the following day. He averaged 2.0 points, 3.1 rebounds and 13.9 minutes.

Griffin, who broke his finger in

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NBA Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	25	29	46 1/2
Philadelphia	26	28	47 1/2
New Jersey	27	27	48
Toronto	22	32	40
New York	22	32	40 1/2
Southeast Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	29	25	71 1/2
Washington	31	22	88 1/2
Orlando	28	19	86 1/2
Charlotte	11	40	21 1/2
Atlanta	19	43	36 1/2
Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	31	29	63 1/2
Cleveland	31	29	63 1/2
Chicago	27	33	45
Indiana	26	34	42 1/2
Memphis	26	34	42 1/2

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	42	13	77 1/2
Dallas	37	18	68 1/2
Houston	33	22	60 1/2
Memphis	30	24	55 1/2
New Orleans	11	43	20 1/2
Northwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	27	31	71 1/2
Minnesota	27	29	69 1/2
Denver	23	35	40 1/2
Portland	21	34	36 1/2
Utah	20	35	33 1/2
Pacific Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	42	13	76 1/2
Sacramento	35	20	63 1/2
L.A. Lakers	28	24	53 1/2
L.A. Clippers	28	24	53 1/2
Golden State	18	36	33 1/2

Thursday's games

New York 113, Philadelphia 101			
Dallas 92, Sacramento 86	LA Clippers 95, Minnesota 86	5-0	0
Charlotte at New Jersey	Denver at Milwaukee		
Cleveland at Indiana	Toronto at Memphis		
Washington at Chicago	Boston at Utah		
Atlanta at Portland	Detroit at L.A. Lakers		
Minnesota at Seattle			

Saturday's games

L.A. Lakers at Toronto	Cleveland at New Jersey
Seattle at Milwaukee	Utah at Houston
Sacramento at Washington	San Antonio at Phoenix
Miami at Orlando	Boston at New Orleans
Minnesota at Portland	Golden State at Dallas
Atlanta at L.A. Clippers	

Thursday

Kings 113, 76ers 101

PHILADELPHIA — Jackson 5-13; 10-18. K. Thomas 4-14; 9-21. D. Songala 7-14; 14-24. J. Songala 1-2; 4-7. Iverson 9-23; 8-23. Mobley 5-6; 5-6. Totals 38-82; 26-30.

NEW YORK — Sweetney 2-6; 8-10. T. Thomas 4-14; 9-21. D. Songala 7-14; 14-24. J. Songala 1-2; 4-7. Iverson 9-23; 8-23. Mobley 5-6; 5-6. Totals 38-82; 26-30.

Clippers 92, Timberwolves 86

PHILADELPHIA — Jackson 5-13; 10-18. K. Thomas 4-14; 9-21. D. Songala 7-14; 14-24. J. Songala 1-2; 4-7. Iverson 9-23; 8-23. Mobley 5-6; 5-6. Totals 38-82; 26-30.

Mavericks 122, Kings 113

PHILADELPHIA — Jackson 5-13; 10-18. K. Thomas 4-14; 9-21. D. Songala 7-14; 14-24. J. Songala 1-2; 4-7. Iverson 9-23; 8-23. Mobley 5-6; 5-6. Totals 38-82; 26-30.

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Pacers involved in brawl ask for separate trials

The Associated Press

DETROIT — The five Indiana Pacers charged in a brawl with Detroit Pistons fans during a game last week are asking for separate trials.

Lawyers for Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, Anthony Johnson, Jermaine O'Neal and David Harrison filed the motion Friday, said Jackson's lawyer James Burdick. Friday was the deadline for motions in all the cases related to the Nov. 19 fight at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

The cases of the five players, as well as those of the Pistons fans involved in the fight, all have been assigned to Judge Lisa Asadourian of the 52nd District Court in Rochester Hills.



Briefs

Asadourian has not said whether she intends to try all the cases together.

The defense lawyers argue that the cases all involve distinct incidents even though they occurred in the same place. In addition, the cases could arise because some of the defendants also were victims — and therefore likely prosecution witnesses — Burdick said.

For example, Artest and O'Neal both punched people and also were struck by cups thrown by fans.

Assistant Oakland County Prosec-

utor Paul Walton said the court would have to consider the issue of "judicial efficiency and economy," as well as fairness to witnesses, in deciding whether or not to grant separate trials.

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Griffin, who broke his finger in



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Michigan St. finally beats a ranked foe

The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Paul Davis heaved the basketball toward the scoreboard hanging over the court, his teammates hugged and the fans cheered wildly.

Yes, it was a big victory for Michigan State.

Alan Anderson didn't miss a shot and scored a career-high 28 points to lead the 10th-ranked Spartans to a 77-64 victory over No. 20 Wisconsin on Thursday night, snapping a 12-game losing streak against ranked opponents and a six-game skid against the Badgers.

"A lot of weight just came off our shoulders," said Davis, who had 13 points and 11 rebounds. "I guess we proved some critics wrong."

The Spartans (20-4, 11-2 Big Ten) have won seven of 10 games losing to the Badgers on Jan. 16, winning their past nine by double digits.

Those lopsided victories didn't quiet many skeptics because of the streak against ranked opponents dating to the regional finals of the 2003 NCAA tournament.

"It's no secret, we needed to get over one hurdle," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "There's a bunch more hurdles to go, but you have to get over the first."

"We had to get over this one to give this team a chance to get the weight of the world off their shoulders and to move on."

Anderson made sure the Spartans didn't have to talk about why they failed to win another marquee game.

He was 10-for-10 from the field and 7-for-7 from the line, becoming the fourth Michigan State player to take at least 10 shots without missing. The senior forward surpassed his previous career high of 18 points early in the second half.

"He did a great job of penetrating and taking care of business around the basket," Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan said. "You name it, he did it."

Anderson matched a field-goal percentage mark at Michigan State.

Ron Charles made all 12 of his shots in a game in 1980, while Carlton Valentine (1986) and Bob Chapman (1977) both went 11-for-11.

"I don't think I missed a shot in warmups," Anderson said. "I said, 'Man, this feels good.'"

Alando Tucker scored 18 points and Mike Wilkinson had 16 for the Badgers (17-7, 8-5), who have lost three of five, allowing Indiana to pull into a third-place tie in the Big Ten standings.

"We don't like to say it happens at Wisconsin, but they outworked us," Tucker said.

The Spartans beat Wisconsin for the first time since Feb. 27, 2001 — thanks to Anderson.

He scored 11 straight points for Michigan State early in the first half, giving the Spartans an 11-point lead, which they maintained easily.

Michigan State led by as much as 14 before halftime and didn't let the Badgers get closer than

Men's Top 25 Roundup

eight after Anderson's scoring barrage. Anderson scored 15 points in the first half to help Michigan State take a 33-25 lead.

It didn't take long for the Spartans to earn a comfortable lead again. Offensive rebounds led to seven of their first eight points in the second half, giving them a 41-27 lead with 17:55 left.

Wisconsin didn't pull within single digits again until there was just over a minute left.

No. 9 Arizona 57, Washington State 56 (OT): At Pullman, Wash., Iwan Radenovic made two free throws with 9 seconds left to help Arizona avoid being swept by Washington State.

Derrick Low's three-point shot for Washington State rimmed out in the closing seconds and Radenovic rebounded for the Wildcats (24-4, 14-2 Pac-10), who beat the Cougars for the 17th straight time at Pullman.

Channing Frye scored 26 points for Arizona, which has won seven in a row.

The victory gave Arizona coach Lute Olson 304 wins in the Pac-10, tied with legendary UCLA coach John Wooden for most wins in the league.

Thomas Kelati led the Cougars (10-14, 5-10) with 16 points.

No. 12 Gonzaga 94, Portland 68: At Portland, Ore., Ronny Turiaf had 14 points and 11 rebounds and Gonzaga clinched the West Coast Conference title for the fifth straight season.

Adam Morrison added 22 points for Gonzaga (22-4, 13-2), which has won nine straight. It is the ninth time since 1994 that the Bulldogs have won the regular-season conference championship.

Darren Cooper had 20 points for the Pilgrims (15-14, 4-10).

No. 14 Washington 90, Arizona State 82: At Seattle, Tre Simmons led a career high with 29 points, including 12 during a four-minute span in the second half and Washington held off pesky Arizona State.

Washington (22-4, 12-3 Pac-10) kept pace with Arizona in the Pac-10. The Huskies are 1½ games behind the Wildcats and host Arizona on Saturday.

Diego, leading the Pac-10 in scoring and rebounding, had a game-high 31 points and 15 rebounds for Arizona State (18-10, 7-9).

No. 24 Cincinnati 80, Marquette 68: At Cincinnati, Eric Haskins scored 17 points and the Bearcats beat Marquette, which was playing its first game without leading scorer Travis Diener.

Nick Williams added 16 points, and Jason Maxiell had 14 points for Cincinnati (21-6, 9-4 Conference USA).

Marquette (18-9, 6-8) had trouble finding shots without Diener, who broke his hand Tuesday during practice. He had surgery and will miss the rest of his senior season.

Steve Novak led Marquette with 25 points.

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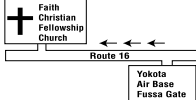
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Woods, Singh meet their match

Top two seeds eliminated at soggy La Costa

The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Tiger Woods' two-year reign in the Match Play Championship came to a swift and stunning conclusion

Friday. For Vijay Singh, a weekend off at La Costa Resort was all too familiar.

The top two seeds eliminated Friday as golf's most unpredictable tournament lived up to its reputation.

Woods, who had won 13 consecutive matches, fell behind early against Nick O'Hern and never caught up. His last hole vanished when he hit into a bunker on the 17th hole, and the lanky lefty from Down Under holed a 5-foot putt for a 3-and-1 victory.

"Nick made all the putts he had to make," Woods said. "I didn't make any."

Singh kept alive his dubious streak of never advancing beyond the second round of the Match Play Championship. He took a 1-up lead over Jay Haas by driving the 332-yard sixth hole, but the putts kept bumping away from the hole and the 51-year-old Haas pulled away for a 3-and-2 victory.

The 16 winners took a brief breather for lunch before playing the third round.

Unlike previous years when top seeds were beaten early, at least 10 winners were not deprived of some star power.

Phil Mickelson, the No. 3 seed who is coming off two straight PGA Tour victories, again had an easy time on the course not far from his home. The Masters champion made four straight bird-



Australia's Nick O'Hern, left, defeated Tiger Woods 3 and 1, ending the two-time defending champion's 13-match winning streak in the event.

AP

ies early in his match and won, 4 and 3, over Angel Cabrera.

U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, the No. 4 seed, recovered from an early deficit to beat Fred Couples, 1 up.

Sergio Garcia (No. 6) was 2 down through 10 holes, but took advantage of some late mistakes by Jerry Kelly and beat him on the 19th hole to advance to third round.

"It was a tough match," Garcia said. "We didn't play too well, but it was exciting. There was a lot of energy around it. I'm glad I went through it, to get my game in a bit of a better shape like I did yesterday."

Other top-10 seeds advancing were Stewart Cink, who eliminated Ryder Cup captain Tom Lehman, and Davis Love III, who routed Lee Westwood of England.

Love had the easiest time, making five birdies and being conceded an eagle putt in 13 holes. His margin of victory, 7 and 6, tied the biggest rout in this tournament previously set by six other players.

O'Hern became the latest Aussie to take down Woods in the early stages of the Match Play Championship. Three years ago, Peter O'Malley became the only No. 64 seed to advance when he knocked Woods out in the first round.

Woods won his next 13 matches, resulting in back-to-back titles, but he was no match for a steady O'Hern and his magical touch around the greens.

O'Hern quickly built a 2-up lead, making a 10-foot birdie putt on No. 2 and a 6-footer on the par-5 third hole. Woods showed early on that putting on the spongy greens at rain-soaked La Costa would be a problem for him. He missed from the fifth on No. 3, and from 5 feet on the fifth hole to fall 2 down.

And every time he had a putt to pull even, it slid around the edge. Woods was driving the ball some 40 yards past O'Hern's on every hole, but that didn't matter. O'Hern always hit first, and usually put the ball inside Woods.

The Aussie took a 2-up lead at the turn with a 6-iron into 4 feet on No. 9, the 467-yard hole that again was converted into a par 3. And when he holed a 12-footer on No. 10, O'Hern was 3 up.

The only hole Woods won on the back nine was No. 15, when O'Hern took four shots to reach the green.

"He doesn't make a lot of mistakes," Woods said.

O'Hern narrowly survived the first round against Charles Howell III, winning on the 19th hole. He was hardly intimidated playing the two-time defending champion,

especially when Woods began catching the lip on his putts.

"Tiger was unfortunate with his putts," O'Hern said.

But they are the same for everyone, and the Aussie looked comfortable easing his way into the second round.

Mickelson had no problem on the greens. With four straight birdies, he quickly surged ahead of Cabrera, then finished his front nine with two more birdies to take a 4-up lead.

Still, the biggest performance by a lefty at La Costa belonged to O'Hern on Friday. He eliminated Woods, and left the Match Play Championship as usually open as it usually is.

Mayfair, Tiziani lead in Tucson

TUCSON, Ariz. — Billy Mayfair, trying to bounce back from the worst of his 16 PGA Tour seasons, and Mario Tiziani, who went to qualifying school 12 times before earning his tour card in December, each shot 9-under-par 63 to share a one-stroke lead in the Chrysler Classic of Tucson.

Steve Stricker bogeyed the 18th hole and dropped to a five-way tie for third place with Mark Cavacchia, Michael Allen, Lucas Glover and Darren Stites.

The 144-man field set first-round records for scoring average (69.979) and eagles (22).

Rosales in front in LPGPA's first full-field event of '05

KAHUKU, Hawaii — Jennifer Rosales shot 6-under-par 66 for a two-stroke lead after the first round of the LPGPA Tour's season-opening SBS Open, and 15-year-old Michelle Wie is four shots back after a 70.

Angela Stanford, Lorena Ochoa, Heather Bewie and Sung Ah Yim trail by two strokes. Juli Inkster opened with a 69.

Wie, who lives a bit more than an hour away from course, was in a large group at 70 that included Craig Park, Cami Koch, Pat Hurst, and Cristie Kerr.

Match Play Championship

At La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad, Calif.

Purse: \$7 million
Yardage: 7,257, Par: 72
Seeds in Parentheses
Friday's results
Second round
Stewart Cink (8) def. Tom Lehman (40), 2 and 1.
Davis Love III (8) def. Lee Westwood (24), 7 and 6.
Rory Sabbatini (39) def. Padraig Harrington (7), 3 and 1.
Ian Poulter (42) def. Stuart Appleby (10), 6 and 5.
Jay Haas (33) def. Vijay Singh (13), 2 and 1.
Chris Dimarco (16) def. John Daly (48), 4 and 3.
Nick O'Hern (31) def. Tiger Woods (21), 3 and 1.
Luke Donald (18) def. Kenny Perry (15), 1 up.
Kirk Triplett (60) def. Craig Parry (37), 1 up.
Robert Allenby (44) def. Graeme McDowell (10), 2 up.
Sergio Garcia (6) def. Jerry Kelly (38), 19 holes.
Adam Scott (11) def. David Howell (36), 2 and 1.
Retief Goosen (4) def. Fred Couples (3), 1 up.
Chad Campbell (20) def. Miguel Angel Jimenez (13), 2 holes.
Phil Mickelson (3) def. Angel Cabrera (20), 4 and 3.
David Toms (14) def. Mark Hensley (46), 2 up.

Thursday's results

First round
Davis Love III (8) def. Chris Riley (56), 1 up.
Lee Westwood (24) def. Steve Hesch (41), 4 and 3.
Fred Couples (3) def. Darren Clarke (12), 1 up.
Robert Allenby (44) def. Todd Hamilton (23), 6 and 5.
Stuart Appleby (10) def. Joakim Haugman (59), 19 holes.
Ian Poulter (42) def. Jerry Kelly (38), 1 up.
Adam Scott (11) def. Trevor Immelman (64), 2 up.
David Howell (43) def. Shigeki Maruyama (22), 6 and 5.
Stewart Cink (8) def. Fred Funk (57), 2 up.
Tom Lehman (40) def. K.J. Choi (25), 4 and 2.
Kirk Triplett (60) def. Mike Weir (5), 1 up.
Craig Parry (37) def. Thomas Bjorn (3), 1 up.
Vijay Singh (17) def. Jeff Maggert (68), 1 up.
Kenny Perry (15) def. Shigeki Maruyama (22), 6 and 5.
Sergio Garcia (6) def. Alex Cejka (59), 4 and 2.
Jerry Kelly (38) def. Scott Verplank (77), 1 up.
Chris Dimarco (16) def. Tim Herron (49), 1 up.
John Daly (48) def. Justin Leonard (17), 1 up.
Miguel Angel Jimenez (13) def. Rod Pampling (52), 3 and 2.
Chris Campbell (20) def. Fredrik Jacobson (64), 2 up.
Luke Donald (18) def. Zach Johnson (47), 4 and 3.
Davis Love III (8) def. Richard Green (51), 1 up.
Mark Hensley (46) def. Stephen Ames (19), 7 and 6.
Vijay Singh (13) def. Shingo Katayama (64), 4 and 3.
Nick O'Hern (31) def. Jonathan Kay (32), 1 up.
Retief Goosen (4) vs. Stephen Levene (61), 1 up.
Fred Couples (3) def. Peter Lonard (29), 1 up.
Tiger Woods (21) def. Nick Price (63), 4 and 3.
Nick O'Hern (31) vs. Charles Howell III (34), 19 holes.
Phil Mickelson (3) vs. Loren Roberts (62), 3 and 1.
Angel Cabrera (30) vs. Paul Casey (35), 4 and 3.

Gymnastics sets up new scoring

By NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

Gymnastics found a way to overhaul its scoring system and still keep its perfect 10.

Under a new system that would take effect next January, gymnasts would get separate marks for difficulty and execution, and the two would be added together for a final score. There'd be no limit to the difficulty score, but the execution mark would continue to be based on the 10.0 scale.

"Competitions will be emotionally charged with a double challenge for each gymnast: to reach the '10' in execution and break a new world record," the International Gymnastics Federation, known as the FIG, said Thursday.

The new scoring system still will be approved by the FIG Council, spokesman Philippe Silacci said. There will be a symposium on the changes next month

in Budapest, Hungary, and the council is scheduled to meet in May in Helsinki, Finland.

The FIG has been under fire for several years to change its Code of Points, the extensive guide to the difficulty values assigned to every move. In the current scoring system, a two-judge "A" panel sets the difficulty value for a routine, and the "B" panel takes deductions from that. The highest and lowest scores from the six-judge "B" panel are tossed out, and the remaining are averaged for one, final score.

But many say the system doesn't accurately reflect technical advances in the sport, with gymnasts limited to a maximum score of 10.0 no matter how difficult their routine. Scoring errors in the men's events in the Athens Olympics and the debacle that followed Paul Hamm's victory in the all-around gave the issue new urgency.

"The level today of gymnastics and the start value has risen," FIG president Bruno Grandi said in Athens. "The difficulty score must be open-ended, but it must be compensated with (execution deductions)."

Though the perfect 10 has become something of a mythical mark — it hasn't been awarded in a major international competition since the 1992 Olympic gymnastics fans didn't want it to disappear completely, either. In a poll on the federation's Web site, 66 percent said the 10 must remain the standard of perfection.

Another 22 percent said the 10 is the "soul of gymnastics," and that getting rid of it would "kill the sport."

"A 10.0 is 10.0," said Valeri Liukin, a double gold medalist in the Seoul Olympics who now coaches his daughter, Nastia, a two-time U.S. junior champion. "It's always been and people knew what it was. It's something special."

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Red Sox ace Schilling throws off mound

The Associated Press

Curt Schilling wasn't too happy after throwing off a mound for the first time since winning Game 2 of the World Series.

Schilling, who had ankle surgery 16 days after he beat St. Louis in the World Series, threw 47 pitches during a 16-minute workout at Fort Myers, Fla.

"This was a time when I didn't feel as good as I wanted to feel," Schilling said. "My ankle didn't hurt, so I guess that's a positive for people other than me."

Pitching
Opening Day
against the
New York
Yankees on
April 3 —
probably
against

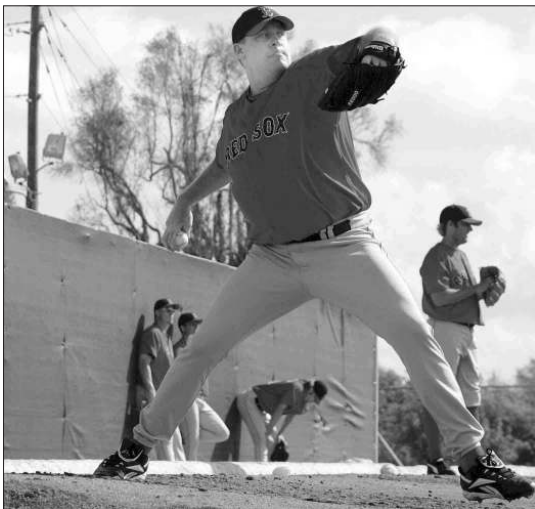
former Arizona teammate Randy Johnson — remains a possibility, and Schilling's competitive nature is driving him toward that. But he wants to make sure he's healthy at a much more important time.

"I think he looked terrific," Boston manager Terry Francona said. "He wants to be dotting every corner right now and throwing splits, and that's just not going to happen."

Schilling's 21-6 record and 3.26 ERA in his first season with Boston boosted the Red Sox into the playoffs, where his bloody sock became the symbol of his determination to do whatever he could to help them win the World Series for the first time in 86 years.

He had one of the worst outings of his career in the first game of the AL championship series, allowing six runs in three innings of a loss to the Yankees. Before his next start, a tendon that had been slipping out of place was stitched to his skin.

With blood seeping through the sutures, Schilling allowed one run



Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling throws off the mound for the first time since Game 2 of the World Series during workouts on Thursday in Fort Myers, Fla. Schilling is hoping to pitch on Opening Day.

in seven innings during Boston's 4-2 win. The procedure was repeated before his next start and then, when he allowed no earned runs in six innings of a 6-2 victory.

In Vero Beach, Fla., infielder Norihiro Nakamura, signed to a

minor league contract, was not in camp because of visa problems. Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said he had no idea when Nakamura, a 31-year-old veteran of 13 seasons with the Osaka Kintetsu Buffaloes in Japan's Pacific League, would report.

In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro is leaving open the possibility of filing a lawsuit against Jose Canseco, who said he introduced the first baseman to steroids in 1992 when both players were with the Texas Rangers.

Canseco cited Palmeiro as a steroid user in his new book. In an interview on the CBS television show "60 Minutes," Canseco said he injected the drug into Palmeiro.

Palmeiro issued a statement last month in which he denied ever using steroids, and he emphatically backed up that assertion Thursday after his first practice of spring training. Palmeiro also said he's considered hiring the law firm of Orioles owner Peter Angelos to take legal action against Canseco.

"The one thing I can say is I have the best law firm and the best lawyer standing in the wings in Peter Angelos," he said.

"I have options available for me. He stands behind me and he's ready. I will look at all my options and I'll decide."

In Mesa, Ariz., Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker and some of his players were disputing some comments Sammy Sosa made when he reported to the Baltimore Orioles' camp.

At a news conference Wednesday, Sosa was asked about comments by Cubs players who said he and the team were better off following the Feb. 2 trade. Sosa apparently interpreted that as the Cubs saying they didn't need him anymore.

"They lie," Sosa was quoted as saying in several newspapers.

The Cubs insisted Thursday that's not what they said or meant.

"Did I say that?" asked Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood.

"I never did say it, so apparently somebody else lies. Not him. I'm not talking about him. I never said we were better without Sammy. I said I think both teams got better in the offseason not because we got rid of Sammy but because of some other moves we made."

La Russa: McGwire shouldn't take Canseco to court

The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa doesn't advise Mark McGwire to take legal action against Jose Canseco for accusations of steroid use in his book.

La Russa passed the bar in 1979, the year he got his first major league managing job with the Chicago White Sox, but never has practiced law. But he said it would be a no-win situation for McGwire, who played for him in Oakland and St. Louis.

"I vaguely remember law school, but I remember that when you start getting into libel and slander, that's one of the toughest proofs in the world," La Russa said Friday. "It is so difficult... The players can do whatever they want to, but you've got to think long and hard before you make that investment."

Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro has left open the possibility of taking legal action against Canseco, who claims he introduced the first baseman to steroids in 1992 when both players were with the Texas Rangers. Palmeiro issued a statement last month in which he denied using steroids and said Thursday he's considered hiring the law

MLB briefs

firm of Orioles owner Peter Angelos.

McGwire also has denied Canseco's charges.

"In Mark's case, I just think if somebody accuses you of something and you try to explain it, you come out so defensive," La Russa said. "It's a terrible position to be in."

La Russa compared the situation to one he found himself in several seasons ago when former Cardinals player Ron Gant accused him of racism.

"Having to defend the fact I've had black players as some of my best friends, it was really uncomfortable," La Russa said.

"Anytime you get accused, being on the defensive is something to avoid."

La Russa didn't think holding a news conference would be "fair" to McGwire, either.

"I know he would handle himself well and it would be OK," La Russa said. "I can't imagine it being fair. I think some people would take stuff out of context, they'd take bits and pieces of answers... I don't know what you'd accomplish by doing it. He's smart, got a family, got advisers, they're thinking long and hard on this."

MRI confirms mild sprain for Gagne

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Eric Gagne's sprained knee ligament didn't keep the Los Angeles Dodgers' closer from working out Friday.

Gagne hurt his left knee Thursday during the Dodgers' first full-squad workout of spring training. He was diagnosed afterward as having sustained a mild sprain, and an MRI exam Friday confirmed the diagnosis.

"It's better today," Gagne said following his workout on an elliptical machine and before the exam. "It's not sharp pain. I did about an hour of cardio today. I know it's not (serious). I'm not a doctor, but I feel better today. I'm walking on it — no swelling."

"I did everything today, my weights, everything."

Gagne has saved 152 games since 2002, a big-league record for saves in three straight seasons. The 29-year-old right-hander agreed to a \$19 million, two-year contract last month.

When asked what would have happened had a similar injury occurred during the season, trainer Stan Johnston said: "He'd be taped and he'd be pitching."

"He's going to be on a day-to-day basis,

probably won't throw for about a week until we can get this thing calmed down," Johnston said.

"I don't want him to stress the area. I don't think we're worried about him making the team."

Devil Rays' Cordova retires

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Former Major League Rookie of the Year Marty Cordova retired Thursday, a day after he was scheduled to report to spring training with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

In 10 seasons with Minnesota, Toronto, Cleveland and Baltimore, the oft-injured outfielder batted .274 with 122 homers and 540 RBIs. He missed all of 2004 and appeared in just nine games two years ago after two operations on his right elbow.

"He's been bothered by back injuries over the last several seasons, and it has gotten to the point where he felt the best decision was to retire," Devil Rays general manager Chuck LaMar said.

The 34-year-old was Rookie of the Year in 1995, hitting .277 with 22 homers and 84 RBIs with Minnesota. He signed a minor league contract with the Devil Rays on Jan. 12.

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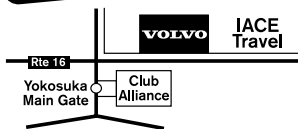
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Rice looking back after being cut

The Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Jerry Rice was released by the Seattle Seahawks on Friday, perhaps signaling an end to the career of greatest receiver in NFL history.

NFL briefs

The release was announced in a short statement from the team, which acquired the 42-year-old Rice from Oakland in a trade last season.

"We are grateful to Jerry and the role he was willing to fill at the Seahawks last year," coach Mike Holmgren said in the statement. "He is one of the greatest players in the history of our game and we wish him nothing but the best."

Rice is the career leader in receptions with 1,549, total yards with 22,895, and receiving touchdowns with 197, all far ahead of the closest pursuer. He also leads in total touchdowns with 207, 32 more than Emmitt Smith, who announced his retirement earlier this month.

Rice indicated after the Seahawks were eliminated by St. Louis in the playoffs last year that he still was interested in playing, "I still feel like I have football left in me, a lot of football in me," he said.

However, it remains to be seen whether there is a team who might be interested in signing a 42-year-old, who began his career with San Francisco in 1985 and was on three Super Bowl winners with the 49ers, winning the Super Bowl MVP Award in 1989. Audney D'Onofrio, a spokeswoman for the receiver, said he was too quiet for such speculation.

Rice's possible return to San Francisco has been a hot topic in the Bay Area, but new 49ers coach Mike Nolan has mostly discour-

aged such speculation. Earlier this week, Nolan acknowledged the club had discussed signing Rice so he could retire with San Francisco, but Nolan doesn't believe Rice would be able to play regularly with the Niners.

"It's not unduly demanding in our discussions that Jerry still wants to test the market and see if someone is interested in having him on the team as a full-time participant," Nolan said Tuesday. "If he wants to retire [with the 49ers], that is certainly something that we would be very open to, but it's my understanding that those aren't his desires."

Among the other records he holds is receptions in 374 straight games, a streak that ended last season while he was with the Oakland Raiders.

Patriots release CB Law

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots released cornerback Ty Law, the team announced Friday.

Law, a 10-year NFL veteran with four Pro Bowl appearances and a part in three Super Bowls, has a championship salary cap this season, the final season of a seven-year, \$51 million contract. He was the team's top cornerback in 2004, with 13 interceptions.

Rams' Faulk agrees to pay cut

ST. LOUIS — Marshall Faulk, now resigned to a backup role with the Rams, has agreed to a pay cut in a restructured contract that will essentially guarantee he'll end his career in St. Louis.

Faulk, an 11-year NFL veteran who turns 32 Saturday, just finished the third year of a seven-year contract. He would have made \$6

million in salary and workout bonuses in 2005.

Under the new four-year deal, Faulk gets \$2 million signing bonus this year, and will earn \$2 million in both 2005 and 2006, said his agent, Rocky Arceaneux. Arceaneux said the salary would average \$3 million per year over the four years of the deal.

"His motive was not wanting to leave," Arceaneux said. "Obviously with a backup, it's hard to justify making \$7 million a year." He said the team had agreed to the deal that Steven Jackson would be the starter.

Panthers cut A-P Pro WR Muhammad

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Muhsin Muhammad was released by Carolina on Friday, after the Panthers were unable to come to terms with the A-1 Pro receiver.

The Panthers had been trying to re-negotiate Muhammad's contract because his current deal would have counted more than \$12 million against the salary cap this season.

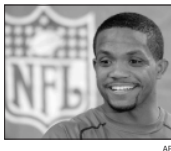
Muhammad holds all of Carolina's receiving records with 578 catches for 7,571 yards. He shares the team record for touchdowns with Wesley Walls at 44.

Browns tell Warren, Green to seek trades

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns have given disappointing defensive tackle Gerard Warren and troubled running back William Green permission to seek trades.

Their general manager Phil Savage said that if Warren can't find a trade suitable for the Browns, he may still remain with the team.

Green's career has been slowed by injuries and persistent problems. He was suspended for eight games for violating the NFL's substance-abuse rules. Last season, Green lost his starting job to Lee Suggs.



Maurice Clarett apologized for some of his actions during a two-year hiatus from football.

All eyes on Clarett in combine

By MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Some of college football's top running backs were overshadowed in the NFL combine by someone who has just nine college starts and hasn't played in years.

Now it's up to Maurice Clarett to live up to the hype.

"I made some mistakes that are obvious to everybody in this room," Clarett said. "And I paid for them."

Clarett was the main topic of conversation Thursday even in this year's deep crop of powerful, fast, multidimensional and tested backs.

"I've not seen him play in a couple of years," said Cedric Benson, who ran for more than 5,000 yards and helped Texas win the Rose Bowl. "Regardless of what he's been through, someone is going to like him, someone is going to love him and someone is going to pick him up."

Benson just blended in the crowd with Auburn's Ronnie Brown and Cornell's "Cadillac" Williams — the best running back tandem in the nation last year — and Frank Gore, who re-established himself as the strong runner who once beat out Willis McGahee for Miami's starting job.

From general managers to coaches, other running backs to a kicker, everyone got questioned about Clarett.

When he arrived in the interview room, all but a handful of reporters huddled around a podium. Gore, sitting near the back of the room, was almost ignored. Asked whether the lack of interest bothered him, Gore responded, "No, no, not at all. I'd be all right if no people were in front of me."

But Clarett must do more than confront his poor public image. With Benson, Brown, Williams and Gore were proving themselves on the field the past two seasons, Clarett was watching games on television hoping for an opportunity to play in the NFL.

Now he must deal with the consequences of sitting out his sophomore season because of a suspension, losing a court battle to enter the NFL Draft early and accusing Ohio State of NCAA violations.

Clarett weighed 234 pounds, 3 pounds lighter than last year when he was criticized for being out of shape.

A year ago, in his first combine appearance, Clarett didn't want to go. This year, in a rare second appearance, Clarett announced he would work out this weekend.

Derek Jeter Center might be coming to Boston

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The arena is in downtown Boston, the home of Red Sox Nation. There couldn't be a bigger insult than to name it after the captain of the hated New York Yankees.

But that's just what Manhattan lawyer Kerry Konrad aims to do next Tuesday after his \$5,225 bid won an eBay auction giving him the one-day naming rights to the FleetCenter.

Konrad's proposed name: the Derek Jeter Center, after the Yankees shortstop.

His winning bid won't fleet-center brass into a dilemma.

"I told him, I don't think we can approve that name," arena spokesman Jim Delaney said.

He said he would discuss it Friday with FleetCenter president Richard Krawitz, and a decision would be made by the end of the day. Arena officials have reserved the right to approve or reject a name they bid.

The FleetCenter is home to the Boston Celtics and Bruins.

The name became obsolete after Bank of America acquired FleetCenter's financial last year and the Charlotte, N.C., banking giant opted not to retain the naming rights.

While the arena's owner, Delaware North Cos., searches for a long-term partner, it has been offering one-day naming rights on eBay and donating the proceeds to charity.

Chaney's suspension extended

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — John Chaney was suspended for the rest of the regular season by Temple on Friday for ordering rough play by one of his players, who proceeded to foul out in 4 minutes against Saint Joseph's and broke an opponent's arm.

The Hall of Fame coach had suspended himself for one game Wednesday and apologized for his actions. He will miss Temple's home game against Massachusetts on Saturday and road games against Rhode Island and La Salle before returning for the Atlantic 10 tournament.

"I think my behavior is reprehensible and, as I've said 1,000 times, I take responsibility," Chaney told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "If it's the judgment of the school to suspend me, I can accept the responsibility of my actions."

Temple president David Adamany announced the suspension on a statement.

"I have advised coach Chaney of this decision and coach Chaney has again expressed his deepest regrets for his actions," Adamany said.

Chaney, angered by what he thought were illegal shots by Saint Joseph's, put in seldom-used 6-foot-8, 250-pound Nicholas Ingram against the Hawks on Tuesday to "send a message." Ingram fouled forward John Bryant hard, sending him sprawling to the ground and breaking his arm. Bryant will likely miss the rest of the season.

Chaney said he called Bryant on Friday morning to apologize and also said he planned to talk to his parents. Chaney offered to pay Bryant's medical bills. Saint Joseph's was traveling to Massachusetts and was not immediately available for comment.

"I've had a reputation for many years. I've done many things wrong and made a lot of mistakes," Chaney said. "My name is a lightning rod. Right now, I'll just take inventory of myself."

Sweden's Paerson wins women's super-G

SAN SICARIO, Italy — Sweden's Anja Paerson won a super giant slalom Friday to inaugurate the course for next year's Turin of the Winter Olympics in a speed event at the World Cup level.

Paerson boosted her lead in the overall standings and proved her victory in the super-G in last

month's world championships was no fluke. She covered the Fraivette Olympique course in 1 minute, 31.85 seconds.

She's Isolde Kostner, an early starter, was second, 0.57 seconds behind, for her best result this season. The winner of the Winter Olympics in Slovenia's Tina Maze tied for third, 0.65 behind.

The top American was Lindsey Kildow, who was 13th.

"I didn't make one big mistake and maybe that was the problem," Kildow said. "Maybe I needed to push my line a bit more."

Paerson leads Janica Kostelic of Croatia 1,061-998 in the overall standings.

Federer barely advances in rainy Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Top-ranked Roger Federer served two match points and beat Juan Carlos Ferrero 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (6) Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Dubai Open.

Federer, who won his third straight match in a third-set tiebreaker, will face seventh-seeded Mikhail Yuzhny, a 7-5, 6-4 winner over Rainer Schüttler.

On Friday, Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia beat third-seeded Tim Henman 7-5, 6-4 for the fourth time in a row in a rain-marred quarterfinal.

In the only other quarterfinal played Friday, fifth-seeded Tommy Robredo of Spain topped Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany 6-3, 6-4.

The two remaining quarterfinals between Federer and Yuzhny, and No. 4 Andre Agassi versus No. 6 Nikolay Davydenko of Russia, were postponed until Saturday because of rain.

Mauresmo ousted in Qatar Open

DOHA, Qatar — Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo lost a chance to claim the No. 1 ranking in women's tennis when she was upset Friday by Australian Alicia Molik in the rain-marred semifinals of the Qatar Open.

The French woman No. 2 was a win away from passing top-ranked American Lindsay Davenport. But fourth-seeded Molik beat her 6-3 (13-11), 6-1 in a match delayed by heavy rain for almost five hours.

Molik will face No. 2 seed Maria Sharapova of Russia, who defeated Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, 6-2, 6-4.

SPORTS

Cougars reclaim crown

Osan girls defeat Faith for third Class A title in 5 years

Stars and Stripes

This time, the Cougars would not be denied.

After two straight heartbreaking losses in the Far East High School Girls Class A Basketball

Tournament final, Osan American defeated Faith Academy of the Philippines 49-41 for its third small-schools championship in the past five years.

"Awesome," said senior forward Mina Davis, a part of Osan's teams that lost the 2003 final, also to Faith, and last year's championship to International School of the Sacred Heart. "This was a very important win for Osan," coach Bruce Barker said.

But unlike the Cougars' runaway title victories in 2001 and 2002, Friday's game was far from easy, featuring eight lead changes and three ties.

Osan finally took the lead for good with 5:05 left when senior

Sharon Kroening hit from the left side, making it 38-37 and sparking an 11-1 run from which the Vanguards did not recover.

It was a marked turnaround from the past two finals, in which the Cougars' foes rallied to victory.

"We didn't want that to happen again," Davis said.

"I think they saw that deja vu coming back," Barker said. "But the girls finally believed in themselves in the end."

A triangle-and-two defense — designed to neutralize Faith's perimeter game — and the inside play of 6-foot-4 junior center Margaret Nurse (17 points, 20 rebounds) and Davis (12, 10) were keys to Osan's victory.

"Our defense improved" in the closing minutes, Kroening said, "but it was our offense and the boards. Margaret just took over."

SEE COUGARS ON PAGE 42



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Osan senior Mina Davis wears the net cords after Friday's Class A title game against Faith Academy.



Schilling tests ankle, throws off mound for first time since winning Game 2 of Series, Page 45



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Guard Bethany Bauck of the Faith Academy Vanguards, left, and Osan American Cougars guard Elizabeth Juergens battle for the ball during Friday's championship game in the Far East High School Girls Class A Basketball Tournament at Hialeah Fitness and Sports Center, Camp Mialeah, Pusan, South Korea. The Cougars beat Faith Academy of the Philippines 49-41 for their third title in five years.

Woods' streak ended by O'Hern in Match Play Championship; World No. 1 Singh also defeated

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Michigan State defeats Wisconsin for first victory over ranked team since 2003 NCAA tournament

Page 41



Which teams made the best deals before the NBA trade deadline?

Page 39

Kings fall to Mavs in first game since Webber trade

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